

CHAPTER 2023-269

Senate Bill No. 7044

An act relating to changes in ownership of or interest in pari-mutuel permits; amending s. 550.054, F.S.; revising entities authorized to hold pari-mutuel wagering permits and associated licenses; amending s. 849.086, F.S.; specifying such entities may hold a license for the operation of a cardroom; amending s. 550.01215, F.S.; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (15) of section 550.054, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550.054 Application for permit to conduct pari-mutuel wagering.—

(15)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering and associated cardroom or slot machine licenses may only be held by a permitholder who held an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021 or who holds a permit issued pursuant to s. 550.3345 or by a purchaser, transferee, or assignee of a valid permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering if approved by the commission before such purchase, transfer, or assignment and provided that the commission does not approve or issue an additional permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering;

(b) All permits issued under this chapter held by permitholders on January 1, 2021, are deemed valid for the sole and exclusive purpose of satisfying all conditions for the valid issuance of the permits, if such permitholder held an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021 or if such permitholder held a permit issued pursuant to s. 550.3345;

(c) Additional permits for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering may not be approved or issued by the commission or former Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering after January 1, 2021; and

(d) A permit to conduct pari-mutuel wagering may not be converted to another class of permit.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 849.086, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

849.086 Cardrooms authorized.—

(5) LICENSE REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEES.—No person may operate a cardroom in this state unless such person holds a valid cardroom license issued pursuant to this section.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pari-mutuel permitholder, other than a permitholder issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345 or a purchaser, transferee, or assignee holding a valid permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering approved pursuant to s. 550.054(15)(a), may not be issued a license for the operation of a cardroom if the permitholder did not hold an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021. In order for an initial cardroom license to be issued to a thoroughbred permitholder issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345, the applicant must have requested, as part of its pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least a full schedule of live racing. In order for a cardroom license to be renewed by a thoroughbred permitholder, the applicant must have requested, as part of its pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least 90 percent of the total number of live performances conducted by such permitholder during either the state fiscal year in which its initial cardroom license was issued or the state fiscal year immediately prior thereto if the permitholder ran at least a full schedule of live racing or games in the prior year.

Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 550.01215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550.01215 License application; periods of operation; license fees; bond.

(1) Each permitholder shall annually, during the period between December 15 and January 4, file in writing with the commission its application for an operating license for a pari-mutuel facility for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering during the next state fiscal year, including intertrack and simulcast race wagering. Each application for live performances must specify the number, dates, and starting times of all live performances that the permitholder intends to conduct. It must also specify which performances will be conducted as charity or scholarship performances.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, other than a permitholder issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345, a pari-mutuel permitholder may not be issued an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering, slot machine gaming, or the operation of a cardroom if the permitholder did not hold an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021. This paragraph does not apply to a purchaser, transferee, or assignee holding a valid permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering approved pursuant to s. 550.054(15)(a).

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 20, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 20, 2023.