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1 **SENATE BILL NO. 159**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 59.1-392 of the Code of Virginia, relating to pari-mutuel wagering; historical*
5 *horse racing; percentage retained for distribution.*

6 Patron—Perry

7 Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 59.1-392 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 59.1-392. Percentage retained; tax.**11 A. Any person holding an operator's license to operate a horse racetrack or satellite facility in the
12 Commonwealth pursuant to this chapter shall be authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing
13 subject to the provisions of this chapter and the conditions and regulations of the Commission.14 B. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack on live horse racing conducted within the
15 Commonwealth, involving win, place, and show wagering, the licensee shall retain a percentage amount
16 approved by the Commission as jointly requested by a recognized majority horsemen's group and a licensee
17 and the legitimate breakage, out of which shall be paid 1.25 percent to be distributed as follows: 1.0 percent
18 to the Commonwealth as a license tax and 0.25 percent to the locality in which the racetrack is located. The
19 remainder of the retainage shall be paid as provided in subsection D, provided, however, that if the
20 percentage amount approved by the Commission is other than 18 percent, the amounts provided in
21 subdivisions D 1, 2, and 3 shall be adjusted by the proportion that the approved percentage amount bears to
22 18 percent.22 C. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at each Virginia satellite facility on live horse racing
23 conducted within the Commonwealth, involving win, place, and show wagering, the licensee shall retain a
24 percentage amount approved by the Commission as jointly requested by a recognized majority horsemen's
25 group and a licensee and the legitimate breakage, out of which shall be paid 1.25 percent to be distributed as
26 follows: 0.75 percent to the Commonwealth as a license tax, 0.25 percent to the locality in which the satellite
27 facility is located, and 0.25 percent to the locality in which the racetrack is located. The remainder of the
28 retainage shall be paid as provided in subsection D, provided, however, that if the percentage amount
29 approved by the Commission is other than 18 percent, the amounts provided in subdivisions D 1, 2, and 3
30 shall be adjusted by the proportion that the approved percentage amount bears to 18 percent.30 D. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack and each Virginia satellite facility on live
31 horse racing conducted within the Commonwealth, involving win, place, and show wagering, the licensee
32 shall retain a percentage amount approved by the Commission as jointly requested by a recognized majority
33 horsemen's group and a licensee and the legitimate breakage, out of which shall be paid:34 1. Eight percent as purses or prizes to the participants in such race meeting;
35 2. Seven and one-half percent and all of the breakage and the proceeds of pari-mutuel tickets unredeemed
36 180 days from the date on which the race was conducted, to the operator;
37 3. One percent to the Virginia Breeders Fund;
38 4. Fifteen one-hundredths percent to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine;
39 5. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Center Foundation;
40 6. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Industry Board; and
41 7. The remainder of the retainage shall be paid as appropriate under subsection B or C.41 E. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack on live horse racing conducted within the
42 Commonwealth involving wagering other than win, place, and show wagering, the licensee shall retain a
43 percentage amount approved by the Commission as jointly requested by a recognized majority horsemen's
44 group and a licensee and the legitimate breakage, out of which shall be paid 2.75 percent to be distributed as
45 follows: 2.25 percent to the Commonwealth as a license tax, and 0.5 percent to the locality in which the
46 racetrack is located. The remainder of the retainage shall be paid as provided in subsection G, provided,
47 however, that if the percentage amount approved by the Commission is other than 22 percent, the amounts
48 provided in subdivisions G 1, 2, and 3 shall be adjusted by the proportion that the approved percentage
49 amount bears to 22 percent.50 F. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at each Virginia satellite facility on live horse racing
51 conducted within the Commonwealth involving wagering other than win, place, and show wagering, the
52 licensee shall retain a percentage amount approved by the Commission as jointly requested by a recognized
53 majority horsemen's group and a licensee and the legitimate breakage, out of which shall be paid 2.75 percent

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59 to be distributed as follows: 1.75 percent to the Commonwealth as a license tax, 0.5 percent to the locality in
60 which the satellite facility is located, and 0.5 percent to the locality in which the racetrack is located. The
61 remainder of the retainage shall be paid as provided in subsection G, provided, however, that if the
62 percentage amount approved by the Commission is other than 22 percent, the amounts provided in
63 subdivisions G 1, 2, and 3 shall be adjusted by the proportion that the approved percentage amount bears to
64 22 percent.

65 G. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack and each Virginia satellite facility on live
66 horse racing conducted within the Commonwealth involving wagering other than win, place, and show
67 wagering, the licensee shall retain a percentage amount approved by the Commission as jointly requested by
68 a recognized majority horsemen's group and a licensee and the legitimate breakage, out of which shall be
69 paid:

70 1. Nine percent as purses or prizes to the participants in such race meeting;

71 2. Nine percent and the proceeds of the pari-mutuel tickets unredeemed 180 days from the date on which
72 the race was conducted, to the operator;

73 3. One percent to the Virginia Breeders Fund;

74 4. Fifteen one-hundredths percent to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine;

75 5. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Center Foundation;

76 6. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Industry Board; and

77 7. The remainder of the retainage shall be paid as appropriate under subsection E or F.

78 H. On pari-mutuel wagering generated by simulcast horse racing transmitted from jurisdictions outside the
79 Commonwealth, the licensee may, with the approval of the Commission, commingle pools with the racetrack
80 where the transmission emanates or establish separate pools for wagering within the Commonwealth. All
81 simulcast horse racing in this subsection must comply with the Interstate Horse Racing Act of 1978 (15
82 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.).

83 I. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack on simulcast horse racing transmitted from
84 jurisdictions outside the Commonwealth, involving win, place, and show wagering, the licensee shall retain
85 1.25 percent of such pool to be distributed as follows: 0.75 percent to the Commonwealth as a license tax,
86 and 0.5 percent to the Virginia locality in which the racetrack is located.

87 J. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at each Virginia satellite facility on simulcast horse racing
88 transmitted from jurisdictions outside the Commonwealth, involving win, place, and show wagering, the
89 licensee shall retain 1.25 percent of such pool to be distributed as follows: 0.75 percent to the Commonwealth
90 as a license tax, 0.25 percent to the locality in which the satellite facility is located, and 0.25 percent to the
91 Virginia locality in which the racetrack is located.

92 K. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack and each Virginia satellite facility on
93 simulcast horse racing transmitted from jurisdictions outside the Commonwealth, involving win, place, and
94 show wagering, the licensee shall retain 1.3 percent of such pool to be distributed as follows:

95 1. One percent of the pool to the Virginia Breeders Fund;

96 2. Fifteen one-hundredths percent to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine;

97 3. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Center Foundation;

98 4. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Industry Board; and

99 5. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Thoroughbred Association for the promotion of breeding in
100 the Commonwealth.

101 L. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack on simulcast horse racing transmitted
102 from jurisdictions outside the Commonwealth, involving wagering other than win, place, and show wagering,
103 the licensee shall retain 2.75 percent of such pool to be distributed as follows: 1.75 percent to the
104 Commonwealth as a license tax, and 1.0 percent to the Virginia locality in which the racetrack is located.

105 M. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at each Virginia satellite facility on simulcast horse
106 racing transmitted from jurisdictions outside the Commonwealth, involving wagering other than win, place,
107 and show wagering, the licensee shall retain 2.75 percent of such pool to be distributed as follows: 1.75
108 percent to the Commonwealth as a license tax, 0.5 percent to the locality in which the satellite facility is
109 located, and 0.5 percent to the Virginia locality in which the racetrack is located.

110 N. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering at the racetrack and each Virginia satellite facility on
111 simulcast horse racing transmitted from jurisdictions outside the Commonwealth, involving wagering other
112 than win, place, and show wagering, the licensee shall retain 1.3 percent of such pool to be distributed as
113 follows:

114 1. One percent of the pool to the Virginia Breeders Fund;

115 2. Fifteen one-hundredths percent to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine;

116 3. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Center Foundation;

117 4. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Horse Industry Board; and

118 5. Five one-hundredths percent to the Virginia Thoroughbred Association for the promotion of breeding in
119 the Commonwealth.

120 O. Moneys payable to the Commonwealth shall be deposited in the general fund. Gross receipts for

121 license tax purposes under Chapter 37 (§ 58.1-3700 et seq.) of Title 58.1 shall not include pari-mutuel
 122 wagering pools and license taxes authorized by this section.

123 P. All payments by the licensee to the Commonwealth or any locality shall be made within five days from
 124 the date on which such wagers are received by the licensee. All payments by the licensee to the Virginia
 125 Breeders Fund shall be made to the Commission within five days from the date on which such wagers are
 126 received by the licensee. All payments by the licensee to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of
 127 Veterinary Medicine, the Virginia Horse Center Foundation, the Virginia Horse Industry Board, and the
 128 Virginia Thoroughbred Association shall be made by the first day of each quarter of the calendar year. All
 129 payments made under this section shall be used in support of the policy of the Commonwealth to sustain and
 130 promote the growth of a native industry.

131 Q. If a satellite facility is located in more than one locality, any amount a licensee is required to pay under
 132 this section to the locality in which the satellite facility is located shall be prorated in equal shares among
 133 those localities.

134 R. Any contractual agreement between a licensee and other entities concerning the distribution of the
 135 remaining portion of the retainage under subsections I through N and subsection U shall be subject to the
 136 approval of the Commission.

137 S. The recognized majority horsemen's group racing at a licensed race meeting may, subject to the
 138 approval of the Commission, withdraw for administrative costs associated with serving the interests of the
 139 horsemen an amount not to exceed two percent of the amount in the horsemen's account.

140 T. The legitimate breakage from each pari-mutuel pool for live, historical, and simulcast horse racing shall
 141 be distributed as follows:

142 1. Seventy percent to be retained by the licensee to be used for capital improvements that are subject to
 143 approval of the Commission; and

144 2. Thirty percent to be deposited in the Racing Benevolence Fund, administered jointly by the licensee
 145 and the recognized majority horsemen's group racing at a licensed race meeting, to be disbursed with the
 146 approval of the Commission for gambling addiction and substance abuse counseling, recreational,
 147 educational, or other related programs.

148 U. On pari-mutuel pools generated by wagering on historical horse racing, the licensee shall retain 1.30
 149 percent of such pool to be distributed as follows:

150 1. a. If generated at a racetrack, 0.56 percent to the locality in which the racetrack is located; or

151 b. If generated at a satellite facility before July 1, 2026, 0.28 percent to the locality in which the satellite
 152 facility is located and 0.28 percent to the Virginia locality in which the racetrack is located. If generated at a
 153 satellite facility on and after July 1, 2026, 0.56 percent to the locality in which the satellite facility is located;

154 2. To the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund established pursuant to § 37.2-314.2, 0.04
 155 0.025 percent;

156 3. To the (i) Virginia Breeders Fund, (ii) Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine for
 157 its equine programs, (iii) Virginia Horse Center Foundation, and (iv) Virginia Horse Industry Board, 0.025
 158 percent each; and

159 4. To the (i) Shenandoah County Agricultural Foundation and (ii) Great Meadow Foundation, 0.025
 160 percent each to support the promotion, education, maintenance, and safety of horse racing at such facilities;
 161 and

162 5. The remainder to the Commonwealth as a license tax.