

Our Mission:

The Minnesota Racing Commission operates in the public interest to ensure the integrity of horseracing and card playing by providing robust regulatory oversight, administering the distribution of funds back into the industry, and providing for the safety and welfare of the human and equine participants. Additionally, the Commission works to promote the horse racing and breeding industries in Minnesota to provide economic stimulus, offer residents and visitors an exciting entertainment options, and support agriculture and rural agribusiness.

Our Role:

- Regulate horse racing to ensure its integrity and that it is conducted in the public interest
- License all participants and staff
- Supervise pari-mutuel and card room betting
- Regulate Advanced Deposit Wagering providers
- Conduct investigations of improper conduct in horse racing and card playing
- Distribute Breeders Fund awards for Minnesota-bred horses

Our Operations in 2022:

- Issued 4,021 licenses
- Stewards at Canterbury Park and Judges at Running Aces issued a combined 150 rulings for racing violations
- Conducted 4,498 pre-race equine examinations and 2,413 post-race equine drug test samples
- Distributed \$735,204 in awards to Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, and Standardbred breeders in Minnesota
- Will soon distribute \$200,000 in grants for retired horse aftercare programs

Funding

- The Racing Commission's operations are financed entirely by the industry we regulate.
- We are funded through racetrack and occupational license fees, operations reimbursements from racetracks, and fees paid by advanced deposit wagering providers.

Canterbury Park Location
1100 Canterbury Road, Ste. 100
Shakopee, MN 55379
Telephone: 952-496-7950

Running Aces Location
15201 Zurich Street, Ste. 212
Columbus, MN 55025
Telephone: 651-925-3951

Budget Request

The Minnesota Racing Commission is seeking a one-time general fund appropriation to pay the costs of complying with the federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act.

Federal Law and Oversight Authority

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act was passed by Congress and signed into law in 2020. This act recognized the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) as being responsible for drafting and enforcing uniform safety and integrity rules in Thoroughbred racing in the U.S. Overseen by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), HISA was created to implement, for the first time, a national, uniform set of rules applicable to every Thoroughbred racing participant and racetrack facility. HISA is composed of two programs: the Racetrack Safety Program, which went into effect on July 1, 2022, and the Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program. The ADMC Program's rules are currently posted by the FTC for public comment and are set to take effect on March 27, 2022.

Drug Testing Program

The ADMC Program is being administered by the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU), which is a division of Drug Free Sports International. HIWU will oversee testing, educate stakeholders on the new program, accredit laboratories, investigate potential violations, and prosecute any such violations. Minnesota has long had a robust drug testing program, and the Minnesota Racing Commission will continue to provide the regulatory veterinarians and sample collection personnel for pre- and post-race examinations and testing.

Federal Assessment for Minnesota

Congress did not provide funding for HISA or the costs associated with implementing the Racetrack Safety or ADMC Programs. Therefore, HISA is assessing states for the costs of their oversight functions. In 2022, HISA assessed Minnesota approximately \$240,000, which the Racing Commission paid from money it received from a fee on online Advanced Deposit Wagering. For 2023, HISA has assessed Minnesota nearly \$1 million for the Racetrack Safety and ADMC Programs.

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