

Subject Racehorse residency pilot program

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Overview

This bill would establish a thoroughbred racehorse residency, aftercare, and benevolence pilot program; establish the thoroughbred racehorse pilot program account in the agricultural fund; and appropriate money for grants and awards.

Summary

Section Description

1 **Thoroughbred racehorse residency, aftercare, and benevolence pilot program.**

Subd. 1 Definitions. Defines terms for purposes of the thoroughbred racehorse residency, aftercare, and benevolence pilot program.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Establishes the pilot program under the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Subd. 3. Minnesota resident thoroughbred registry. Requires the MDA to compile and maintain a voluntary registry of thoroughbred racehorses. Requires applicants to apply to the MDA for registration, pay a nonrefundable fee of \$100, and demonstrate that the applicant's racehorse resided at a racetrack for at least 120 days during the previous calendar year.

Subd. 4. Residency awards. Requires racetracks to award \$750 to the owner of a registered racehorse if the racehorse started a race at the racetrack that racing day. Directs MDA to reimburse racetracks for these awards.

Subd. 5. Repurposing grants. Directs MDA to award grants to certain organizations and programs to retrain and repurpose retired registered racehorses.

Subd. 6. Mental health and education grants. Directs MDA to award grants to organizations for mental health and education services for stable workers or others in the racetrack local community.

Section	Description
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Subd. 7. Account; appropriation. Establishes the thoroughbred racehorse pilot program account in the agricultural fund. Appropriates the application fee revenue from subdivision 3 to this account. Sets a minimum allocation amount for grants under subdivision 5 at \$500,000. Sets a minimum allocation amount for grants under subdivision 6 at \$500,000.

Subd. 8. Expiration. Limits the pilot program from its effective date to July 1, 2028.

2 **Transfer.**

Transfers \$7,000,000 from the general fund to the thoroughbred racehorse pilot program account in the agricultural fund in fiscal year 2026.



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