

# Decoupling: A Multibillion-Dollar Threat to Florida's World-Renowned Thoroughbred Legacy

A new proposal (**HB 105/SB 408**) will deal a devastating economic blow to the state by authorizing Thoroughbred pari-mutuel permit-holders to go back on a decades-long agreement and “decouple” from thoroughbred horse races, allowing them to operate as stand-alone slot machine casinos.

This decoupling of gaming from live horse racing **will eliminate the 33,500 jobs** supported by Florida's world-renowned Thoroughbred industry.

HB 105 directly conflicts with last year's commitment by the Legislature when it made a robust investment in growing the state's agricultural industry, prioritizing horses raised, trained, and raced in Florida.

## What's at stake? A huge price for Florida



The Florida Thoroughbred industry contributes **\$3.24 billion** to the Florida economy, substantially more than the **\$3.1 billion** annual total economic impact of all collegiate athletics in the state.



The entire Florida equine industry generates **\$12.8 billion**, with Thoroughbreds contributing more than one-quarter of this total.



Florida is the **third leading equine state by population**, with **335,000 horses** — of which more than 1 in 4 (**87,600**) are Thoroughbreds.



**A Winning Legacy:** Florida is perennially the top regional producer of national Thoroughbred starters, starts, wins, open stakes wins, and graded stakes wins (horse racing's highest echelon).

The equine industry supports **112,000 jobs** in Florida, with **33,500 (30%)** linked to Thoroughbreds.

Individuals who do not own horses, joined with spectators, annually spend **\$2.7 billion** on travel, dining, and lodging in Florida — more than one-third of it (**34%**) in Marion County.

Florida dedicates **561,000 acres** to equine and related activities



Marion County, known as the “Horse Capital of the World®,” accounts for **210,000 acres** of this greenspace total. The county is home to **75,000 horses**, nearly **50% of them Thoroughbreds**, contributing **\$4.3 billion** in total economic impact — **22% of the county's GDP**. Nearly three-quarters of U.S. juvenile race horses receive early training in Marion County, certifying Ocala as an epicenter of the global Thoroughbred industry.

## Support Florida's Agriculture and Horse Industry. Oppose HB 105/SB 408.

