

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

A new proposal (**HB 105**) 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, and may well be the death knell for Thoroughbred racing nationwide.

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



\$4.3B

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.

