

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R13122 EMT-F

C.S.H.B. 948
By: Crownover (Fraser)
State Affairs
5/20/2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The Texas Racing Commission (TRC) was created in 1986 under the Texas Racing Act. The original Act required TRC to consist of eight appointed members, two of whom were required to be licensed veterinarians, with one of the veterinarians specializing in the treatment of small animals and one specializing in large animals. Veterinarians were included on TRC to evaluate the extent to which a rule might affect the health of the animals. In 1997, changes were made to the Act following TRC's sunset review which removed the requirement that two TRC members be licensed veterinarians. C.S.H.B. 948 requires the governor to appoint an additional public member to TRC.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 2.02(a), Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, V.T.C.S.) to provide that the Texas Racing Commission (TRC) consists of seven, rather than six, members.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 2.03(a), Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, V.T.C.S.) to provide that appointed members hold office for staggered terms of six years with two or three members' terms expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 2.05(a), Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, V.T.C.S.) to require five, rather than four, of the appointed members of (TRC) to be representatives of the general public and have general knowledge of business or agribusiness. Authorizes that at least one of those appointed members be a veterinarian, and provides that being licensed as a veterinarian satisfies the requirement that the person have general knowledge of business or agribusiness.

SECTION 4. (a) Effective date: September 1, 2003.

(b) Provides that the change in law made by this Act relating to the qualifications for membership on TRC does not affect the eligibility of a TRC member serving immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue to serve for the term to which the member was appointed. Requires the governor to appoint an additional public member to TRC for a term expiring on February 1, 2009, as soon as possible on or after September 1, 2003.