

State of California

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 21, 2019
To: Legislative Committee
Via: Rick Pickering, Chief Executive Officer
From: Tom Martinez, Chief Deputy General Manager
Subject: Legislative Committee Report

The 2019 - 2020 Legislative Session reconvened on January 7, 2019. The deadline for bill proposals to be introduced was February 22, 2019. Since the beginning of the Legislative Session, 2,612 bills have been introduced in both houses of the Legislature.

This report provides short list of bills that are being brought to your attention for support or opposition by The Western Fairs Association (WFA), and or, the California Association of Racing Fairs (CARF). Staff is also placing a recommendation for the Board's consideration. Please note the 2019 – 2020 Legislative Session is in its infancy stages, as such, the bills below have not been heard in their respective initial committees:

SB 281 Cow Palace Joint Powers Authority (Wiener)

(1) Existing law authorizes 2 or more public agencies, by agreement, to form a joint powers authority to exercise any power common to the contracting parties, as specified. Existing law authorizes the agreement to set forth the manner by which the joint powers authority will be governed. This bill, the Cow Palace Authority Act, would establish the Cow Palace Authority (hereafter "the authority") for the purpose of managing, developing, or disposing of the real property known as the Cow Palace.

The bill would establish the governing board of the authority, comprised of members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Daly City, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, and the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo. The bill would grant the board the power to exercise various duties, including the power to accept and receive grants, incur indebtedness, and raise revenue, subject to applicable voter approval requirements and other specified election procedures, as provided. The bill would also require the board to convene a Cow Palace Advisory Committee to assist and advise the board in carrying out its functions, as specified.

The bill would further require the board of the authority to provide for regular audits of the authority and annual financial reports. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Staff Recommendation: **WATCH**

SB 313 Wild and Exotic Animals: Traveling Animals Acts (Hueso)

Existing law regulates the taking and possession of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, including the importation, transportation, possession, and live release of wild animals, as defined.

This bill would prohibit a person from using, or allowing to be used, a wild or exotic animal, as defined, in a traveling animal act, as defined. The bill would impose a civil penalty for each violation of its provisions.

Staff Recommendation: **WATCH**

AB 482 Horse racing law: California Horse Racing Board: Racing Weeks (Quirk)

(1) Existing law provides that the intent of the Horse Racing Law is to allow parimutuel wagering on horse races while, among other things, encouraging agriculture and the breeding of horses in this state.

This bill would add to that statement of intent supporting the network of California fairs. (2) The Horse Racing Law provides that the California Horse Racing Board consists of 7 members appointed by the Governor. That law also provides that each member of the board shall have been a resident of this state for 2 years next preceding his appointment.

This bill would require that at least 2 members of the board shall reside in each of the southern zone, the central zone, or the northern zone.

(3) The Horse Racing Law gives the board the authority to allocate racing weeks to an applicant or applicants pursuant to specified provisions of law and to specify such racing days, dates, and hours for horse racing meetings as will be in the public interest, and will subserve the purposes of the Horse Racing Law.

This bill would, notwithstanding these provisions, give the board the authority to allocate racing weeks based on a multiyear calendar to an applicant or applicants pursuant to specified provisions of law. The bill would also authorize the board, when proposed start time temperatures present a serious risk to horses, jockeys, or other backstretch employees and at the request of the racing association or fair, to authorize races scheduled for daytime hours to be run in the evening.

(4)The Horse Racing Law authorizes the California Horse Racing Board to make allocations of racing weeks, including simultaneous racing between zones, as it deems appropriate, as provided.

This bill would require the board, from the weeks available in the northern zone, to allocate those weeks in the month of June to the month of October to a fair racing association. The bill would also authorize the board to allocate weeks in the month of November through the month of May to a fair racing association.

(5)The Horse Racing Law authorizes a thoroughbred racing association or fair to distribute the audiovisual signal and accept wagers on the results of out-of-state thoroughbred races conducted in the United States during the calendar period the association or fair is conducting a race meeting, including days on which there is no live racing being conducted by the association or fair, without the consent of the organization that represents horsemen and horsewomen participating in the race meeting and without regard to the amount of purses. Under that law, the total number of thoroughbred races imported by associations or fairs on a statewide basis under these provisions are required to not exceed 50 per day on days when live thoroughbred or fair racing is being conducted in the state, with the exception of prescribed races. This bill would remove the 50-per-day limitation on the total number of thoroughbred races that may be imported by associations or fairs on a statewide basis on days when live thoroughbred or fair racing is being conducted in the state. The bill would also delete the exception for prescribed races.

Staff Recommendation: **SUPPORT**

AB 1800 Fairs: State Funding: Classification (Assembly Committee on Agriculture)

Existing law governs the apportionment of state funds to fairs within the network of California fairs, which includes, in general, the California Exposition and State Fair, district agricultural association fairs, county fairs, and citrus fruit fairs. Existing law requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to annually classify these fairs, taking into consideration specified criteria, including criteria regarding the type and class of exhibitions, attendance, efficiency of management, and financial need. Existing law requires the department to annually request advice and recommendations for modification of these classifications from boards of directors of fairs.

This bill would authorize, instead of require, the department to classify fairs. The bill would require the department to consider whether to classify or reclassify fairs at least once every 5 years. The bill would authorize, instead of require, the department to consider the above-described criteria and to consult with the boards of directors of fairs when making classifications. The bill would also repeal an obsolete provision.

Staff Recommendation: **WATCH**