



## Sunset Review: Division of Racing Events and Colorado Racing Commission

### Background

#### *What is regulated?*

Colorado's lone horse racing track as well as in-state simulcast facilities that conduct pari-mutuel betting on horse and greyhound races must secure a license from the Department of Revenue's Colorado Racing Commission prior to offering services. Live greyhound racing is not permitted in Colorado, but bettors may place wagers on greyhound races in other states at in-state simulcast facilities. There are also a variety of licenses issued for both live horse racing and simulcast racing. For example, in-state simulcast facilities, the track, jockeys and trainers must secure a license.

#### *Why is it regulated?*

Racing is regulated in Colorado to ensure the integrity of live horse racing and simulcast racing, as well as to protect the welfare of the race participants and race horses.

#### *Who is regulated?*

In 2021, the Commission issued one license for live horse racing, which held 30 days of live races, and there were 353 active business and occupational licenses and registrations.

#### *How is it regulated?*

The Commission regulates live horse and simulcast horse and greyhound racing in which pari-mutuel wagering is being conducted. The Commission's primary duties are to license race meets and simulcast facilities. The Division of Racing Events, among other things, is responsible for conducting inspections of horse stables as well as in-state simulcast facilities to ensure compliance with the statute and rules.

The Commission, Stewards and hearing officers are authorized to impose discipline for violations of the statute or applicable rules.

#### *What does it cost?*

In calendar year 2021, the total cost of regulatory oversight was \$1,448,127, and there were 7.7 full-time equivalent employees associated with the program.

#### *What disciplinary activity is there?*

In calendar year 2021, the Commission, Stewards and hearing officers imposed 29 disciplinary actions including suspensions and fines.

### Key Recommendations

- Continue the Division of Racing Events and the Colorado Racing Commission for nine years, until 2032.
- Repeal the limitation on the number of additional in-state simulcast facilities and authorize local jurisdictions to opt out.
- Repeal duplicative inspection requirements on greyhound kennels.