

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF HORSERACING TO GEORGIA

THE HORSERACING INDUSTRY IS IN DECLINE The business model of horseracing loses money for everyone except *winning racehorse owners* and *trainers*. The decline in crowd attendance and gambling on horseracing is expected to continue to decline. The majority of the few remaining racetracks are dependent on other gambling on the same premises to survive. The casino industry's only reason to lobby for horseracing is to use it to get a foothold into states that don't have legalized gambling, like Georgia. **A**

45% of all American racetracks have closed (94 of 172).

53% of those racetracks closed since 2000 (41 of 78).

71% of active racetracks are racinos (67 of 94).

B

THE PROMISE OF JOBS IS A MYTH Most supportive roles in horseracing and ancillary track jobs are low paying and considered "low skill". Any high paying, highly skilled positions (trainers, jockeys, stewards) would not be filled by Georgians, but by non-resident individuals who have racing or racetrack experience. Contrary to what proponents of this legislation want you to believe, Georgia does not have an existing racehorse breeding industry suffering from not having a racetrack in GA. Horseracing, by definition, **requires** travel to different tracks throughout the year. **C**

THE PROMISED ECONOMIC IMPACTS IS A "BAIT and SWITCH" TACTIC Proponents of bringing horseracing to Georgia like to infer that these proposed racetracks would bring Georgia positive economic impacts similar to Ocala Florida's \$2 billion equine industry. **But Ocala is not at all similar to these horseracing plans proposed for Georgia because:**

1. **Ocala is a national hub of many other equine industries besides racing.** These OTHER equine businesses account for more than 75% of that \$2 billion industry: Three Day Eventing, Hunter/Jumper, Dressage, Rodeo, Barrel Racing, and Polo competition, Training, Riding Instruction, Leisure Riding, Boarding, and Breeding businesses.
2. **Ocala does not have a racetrack.** (Florida's racetracks are 4 hours away from Ocala).
3. **Ocala's equine industry evolved over a span of 75 years. It did not just suddenly "happen" because Florida's legislators gave the ok to build racetracks.** **D**

NEW FEDERAL LAW IMPOSES AN UNFUNDED MANDATE The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020 ("HISA"), signed into law by Pres. Trump, **requires an on-track pre-race examination of each horse prior to each race.** Georgia does not have enough equine veterinarians to fulfill this federal requirement. **E**

THE COST TO GEORGIA TAXPAYERS WILL BE ENORMOUS Georgia's taxpayers will have to pick up the tab for the horses the racing industry discards (those that lose races or cannot be raced) at anywhere from 0 to 8 years old. HISA will not protect those horses once they leave racing. THAT will be left up to the already underfunded and understaffed GDA and Georgia's individual Animal Control agencies throughout Georgia to ensure that horse is cared for properly and up to Georgia's animal lovers to ensure that horse does not end up in a kill pen bound for slaughter. A horse can live to the age of 30. **Just 100 additional horses every year will cost Georgians over \$200 million to care for the remainder of their lives.** The aftercare programs this legislation touts will only contribute a few thousand dollars a year. It costs >\$9k a year to care for 1 HEALTHY horse in Georgia, **while 1 ex-RACEhorse needing rehabilitation, re-training, and medical care can cost >\$15k a year.** Georgia already has rescues because of its homeless horse overpopulation. **F**

Contact GACompanionAnimalAdvocacy@GMAIL.COM with questions or requests for more information