

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (UPDATED)
LB1001

Hearing Date: Monday January 26, 2026
Committee On: General Affairs
Introducer: General Affairs
One Liner: Change and eliminate provisions relating to licensed racetrack enclosures, licenses and wagering on horseracing, assistance to problem gamblers, the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue, keno at licensed racetrack enclosures, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Holdcroft, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Clouse, DeKay, Quick, Rountree, Storm
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rick Holdcroft
Casey Ricketts
Chris Kotulak
Zach Mader
Edward Ziemba

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission
Fonner Park Racetrack
Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association
NQHRA Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

John Hassett
Lynne McNally

Representing:

self
Nebraska Horsemen NHBPA

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1001, introduced at the request of the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission, updates statutory provisions governing racetrack operations, wagering distributions, horse registration, simulcasting, and problem-gaming oversight. LB 1001 establishes a process for racetracks to petition for waivers or modifications of minimum racing requirements; revises the deduction and distribution of wagering proceeds for purses and breeder and stallion awards; requires designation of official registrars and timely registration of Nebraska-bred thoroughbred and quarterhorses; removes minimum racing requirements for certain simulcast licenses while requiring consultation with



breed organizations; aligns quarterhorse racetrack rights with those of thoroughbred racetracks for simulcasting; transfers oversight and funding of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming to the Racing and Gaming Commission; adds gaming tax proceeds as a funding source for problem-gaming assistance; and authorizes keno play by individuals 19 years of age or older at licensed racetrack enclosures in a location separate from casino gaming floors.

Section 1 amends 2-1205 to add a new subsection authorizing licensed racetrack enclosures to petition the Racing and Gaming Commission for a waiver or modification of minimum racing requirements. Any such petition must state the basis for the request and is subject to review and approval by the Commission. The Commission may grant a waiver or modification for any reason, including, but not limited to, fire, earthquake, tornado, other natural disasters, or other conditions that make the conduct of horse racing impracticable or unsuitable. This provision is not new authority or policy; rather, it relocates existing statutory language from Section 2-1228 to this Section without substantive change.

Section 2 amends 2-1207 to require racetrack licensees that generate revenue from total wager pools to deduct prize money, sans the racetrack's share of 15% of wagers (25% for exotic wagers), for horses finishing first, second, and third, as well as for all exotic wagers, and to remit those amounts to the official registrar of the applicable breed for distribution.

Section 3 amends 2-1207.01 to require official registrars for each breed to distribute purse supplements and breeder and stallion awards. Requires that at least 80% of amounts deducted from the portion of the total sum wagered in excess of 15% (which is kept by the racetrack) be expended for purse supplements and breeder and stallion awards.

2-1207.01 is also amended to authorize the distribution of wagering deductions as purse supplements and breeder and stallion awards at racetracks conducting live races of the same breed when a racetrack ceases to conduct live racing and requires that any amounts deducted under a contract between a racetrack and the organization representing the majority of licensed owners and trainers at the racetrack's most recent live quarterhorse race be used by that organization exclusively to promote live quarterhorse racing in this state. The same requirement is applied to thoroughbred racing and the corresponding organizations.

Section 4 amends 2-1210 to revise the duration of a racetrack enclosure license by providing that the license is valid for a period of up to three years, rather than a fixed three-year term.

Section 5 amends 2-1213 to require the Racing and Gaming Commission to designate official registrars responsible for registering and certifying the eligibility of Nebraska-bred horses. The amendment changes the Commission's authority from discretionary to mandatory.

Additionally, 2-1213 is amended to require thoroughbred and quarterhorses to be registered with the appropriate official registrar designated by the Racing and Gaming Commission within 90 days of birth. Authorizes the imposition of an administrative fee of up to \$1,000 for failure to comply.

Section 6 amends 2-1216 by removing the requirement that that the parimutuel system of wagering on the results of horseraces to be conducted within the racetrack enclosure at a licensed horserace meeting and, instead, requires that it be done pursuant to section 2-1207.

Section 7 amends 2-1226 by eliminating the exception in §2-1228, clarifying that any racetrack holding a license and conducting at least one live race meet per calendar year may apply to the Racing and Gaming Commission for a simulated facility license.



Section 8 amends 2-1228 to eliminate the minimum racing requirements for thoroughbred racetracks applying for an interstate simulcast facility license.

Section 9 amends 2-1229 to require the Racing and Gaming Commission, prior to approving an application for interstate simulcasting, to confer with the appropriate breed organization regarding the potential impact on horse breeding and racing in Nebraska. Additionally, quarterhorse racetracks are authorized to exercise the same rights as thoroughbred racetracks regarding approval of the day and time of simulcast races offered by competing racetracks.

Section 10 amends 9-1,101 by placing the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming under the authority of the Racing and Gaming Commission rather than the Department of Revenue and authorizes the Racing and Gaming Commission to collect funding previously provided to the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming. The administrative support requirements previously imposed on the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue is eliminated with respect to the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming.

Section 11 amends 9-831 to require the Charitable Gaming Division to collaborate with the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming to coordinate prevention, education, and awareness messaging.

Section 12 amends 9-1001 to designate annual gaming tax proceeds, as provided in Section 9-1204, as an additional primary source of funding for programs that provide assistance to individuals with problem gambling disorders.

Section 13 amends 9-1002 to remove the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue from the definitions related to problem gambling.

Section 14 amends 9-1003 to clarify the distinction between the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming and the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission, and to update the statute to reflect that the Commission of Problem Gaming is administratively housed within the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission rather than the Department of Revenue.

Section 15 amends 9-1004 by removing 9-1007 from the list of authorizing statutes under which the Problem Gaming Commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations and undertake other actions necessary to carry out its statutory duties.

Section 16 amends 9-1006 to add distributions of annual gaming tax proceeds as an authorized funding source for the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund.

Section 17 amends 9-1104 to permit individuals who are 19 years of age or older to play or otherwise participate in keno at a licensed racetrack enclosure. The provision requires that keno be conducted in a designated area that is separate from the casino gaming floor where other games of chance are offered.

Section 18 amends 9-1115 to permit individuals who are 19 years of age or older to play or otherwise participate in keno at a licensed racetrack enclosure. The provision requires that keno be conducted in a designated area that is separate from the casino gaming floor where other games of chance are offered.

Section 19 is the Repealer section.

Section 20 notes the statutes that are outright repealed.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee considered and adopted an amendment which accomplishes the following: The Standing Committee



Amendment (AM 1946) amends LB 1001 as introduced and incorporates LB 828 as amended and LB 1047 as amended into LB 1001.

LB 1001- Sections 1-10, and 21-30 of AM 1946

LB 1001, as amended, limits the commission's authority to waive or modify the requirements of subsection (2) of Section 2-1205 to cases where a racetrack is unable to conduct the required number of live racing days due to natural events beyond its control or conditions that make the racetrack unsuitable for racing. The amendment also reorganizes the language of subsection (3).

Additionally, LB 1001, as amended, removes the specific 30 day residency exception for certain mares and instead authorizes the residency requirement to be waived. Under AM 1811, the 90 day requirement that a dam be continuously in Nebraska prior to foaling may be waived as provided in the statute.

LB 828- Section 20 of AM 1946

LB 828 as amended was introduced by Senator DeKay and revises statutes governing gift enterprises and savings promotion raffles by broadening the definition of "operator" to apply uniformly to any person or entity, including nonprofit organizations, that promotes, operates, or conducts a gift enterprise, thereby eliminating prior exclusions. LB 828 also amends related financial provisions by expanding the definition of "financial institution" to include credit unions, while limiting the definition of "savings promotion raffle" and the authority to restrict raffle entries to state-chartered financial institutions only, removing credit unions from its definition. The original sections are repealed.

LB 828 was amended into LB 1001 on a 8-0 vote of the committee:

Aye- Senators Holdcroft, J. Cavanaugh, Andersen, Clouse, DeKay, Quick, Roundtree, Storm
Nay- None

Proponents:

Senator Barry DeKay , Opening Presenter
Clay Smith, Museum of American Speed
Kevin Sander, Development Director, Museum of American Speed

Opponents: None

Neutral:

L. James Wright, Nebraska Credit Union League
Brian Rockey, Director, Nebraska Lottery and Charitable Gaming Division

LB 1047- Sections 11-19 of AM 1946

LB 1047 as amended was introduced by Senator Holdcroft and expands the definition of bingo to include games where winning outcomes are based on song titles, musical artists, or music genres and establishes the required format for these music-themed bingo cards. LB 1047 increases the maximum prize for licensed bingo from \$25 to \$50, raises the price limit for special event bingo cards to \$1 each, and increases the maximum prize for special event bingo to \$50. LB 1047 also increases the number of special event bingo permits a qualifying nonprofit may obtain annually from two to four, and allows up to four special event bingos per premises each year. Music-themed bingo must be conducted only under a special event bingo permit and not under Class I or Class II licenses, and disposable paper cards for music bingo may be obtained from any source. LB 1047 also raises the maximum prize value for



which minors may participate in limited period or special event bingo from \$25 to \$50 per game and requires music-themed bingo to use a device that ensures random selection. The original sections are repealed.

LB 1047 was amended into LB 1001 on a 8-0 vote of the committee:

Aye- Senators Holdcroft, J. Cavanaugh, Andersen, Clouse, DeKay, Quick, Roundtree, Storm

Nay- None

Proponents:

Senator Rick Holdcroft , Opening Presenter

Elliott Piper, The Music Bingo People

Angela Grote, Skutt Catholic

Tom Venzor, Nebraska Catholic Conference

Opponents: None

Neutral:

Brian Rockey, Director, Lottery and Charitable Gaming Division

Section by Section Summary

Section 1 - Amends Section 2-1205. Adds a new subsection to allow licensed racetrack enclosures to seek Commission approval for waivers or modifications of minimum racing requirements.

Section 2 - Amends Section 2-1207. Requires racetrack licensees to remit specified prize money from wager pools to the official breed registrar. The deduction excludes the racetrack's statutory share and applies to designated finishers and exotic wagers.

Section 3 - Amends Section 2-1207.01. Regulates the distribution and use of wagering deductions for purse supplements and breed-specific racing promotion.

Section 4 - Amends Section 2-1210. Revises the term of a racetrack enclosure license by making it valid for up to three years, rather than a fixed three-year period.

Section 5 - Amends Section 2-1213. Allows a full waiver of the 90-day residency requirement for certain mares, requires official registrars to be designated by the Commission, and mandates timely registration of Nebraska-bred horses with a possible fee for late registration.

Section 6 - Amends Section 2-1216. Requires parimutuel wagering to be conducted under Section 2-1207, rather than mandating it occur within the racetrack enclosure.

Section 7 - Amends Section 2-1226. Clarifies that any licensed racetrack holding at least one live meet annually may apply for a simulated facility license.

Section 8 - Amends Section 2-1228. Removes minimum racing requirements for thoroughbred racetracks seeking an interstate simulcast facility license.

Section 9 - Amends Section 2-1229. Requires Commission consultation with breed organizations before approving interstate simulcasting and to extend day/time approval rights to quarterhorse racetracks.



Section 10 - Amends Section 9-1,101. Transfers oversight and funding of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming to the Racing and Gaming Commission and removes related support duties from the Department of Revenue.

Section 11 - Amends Section 9-204. Expands the definition of “bingo” to include games using song titles, musical artists, or genres as winning outcomes and modifies language.

Section 12 - Amends Section 9-204.01. Adds a new subsection defining music-themed bingo cards as standard 5x5 cards using song-based designators.

Section 13 - Amends Section 9-204.04. Expands the definition of “bingo card monitoring device” to include music-based entries while retaining existing restrictions.

Section 14 - Amends Section 9-230. Increases the maximum prize for bingo games conducted by licensed organizations from \$25 to \$50.

Section 15 - Amends Section 9-230.01. Expands special event bingo permit limits, increases card price and prize caps, permits disposable music-themed bingo cards to be obtained from any supplier, and requires music-themed bingo to be conducted only under a special event permit.

Section 16 - Amends Section 9-233. Adds a new subsection clarifying that music-themed bingo games may only be conducted under a special event bingo permit and are prohibited for Class I and Class II bingo licensees.

Section 17 - Amends Section 9-241.03. Increases the maximum number of special event bingos allowed at a single premises from two to four per calendar year.

Section 18 - Amends Section 9-241.08. Increases the maximum prize value for which persons under 18 may participate in limited period or special event bingo from \$25 to \$50 per game.

Section 19 - Amends Section 9-255. Requires music-themed bingo to use a device that ensures random selection.

Section 20 - Amends Section 9-701. Includes credit unions as financial institutions, applies “operator” rules uniformly to nonprofits, and harmonizes savings promotion raffle language so credit unions remain eligible without separate listing.

Section 21 - Amends Section 9-831. Requires the Charitable Gaming Division to coordinate prevention and awareness messaging with the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming.

Section 22 - Amends Section 9-1001. Designates annual gaming tax proceeds as an additional primary funding source for problem gambling assistance programs.

Section 23 - Amends Section 9-1002. Removes the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue from problem gambling definitions.

Section 24 - Amends Section 9-1003. Clarifies the distinction between the two commissions and reflects that the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gaming is housed within the Racing and Gaming Commission.

Section 25 - Amends Section 9-1004. Removes §9-1007 from the list of statutes authorizing the Problem Gaming Commission’s rulemaking and duties.



Section 26 - Amends Section 9-1006. Adds annual gaming tax proceeds as an authorized funding source for the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund.

Section 27 - Amends Section 9-1104. Allows individuals 19 and older to play keno at licensed racetrack enclosures in a designated area separate from the casino gaming floor.

Section 28 - Amends Section 9-1115. Allows individuals 19 and older to play keno at licensed racetrack enclosures in a designated area separate from the casino gaming floor.

Section 29 - Repealer Section

Section 30 - Outright repeals Section 9-1007, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025.

Rick Holdcroft, Chairperson

