

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2182

To deregulate interstate commerce with respect to parimutuel wagering on horseracing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2015

Mr. PITTS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To deregulate interstate commerce with respect to parimutuel wagering on horseracing, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Coronado Heights
5 Horseracing Deregulation Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; BACKGROUND.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Congress makes the following
8 findings:

9 (1) Congress enacted the Interstate Horse-
10 racing Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–515; 15 U.S.C.

1 3001 et seq.) to regulate interstate commerce with
2 respect to parimutuel wagering on horseracing in
3 order to further the horseracing industry of the
4 United States.

5 (2) In 2000, Congress amended such Act to
6 allow parimutuel wagering by telephone and over the
7 Internet, a gambling privilege no other sport enjoys.

8 (3) The use of performance-enhancing drugs in
9 horseracing is widespread in the United States,
10 where no uniform regulations exist with respect to
11 the use of, and testing for, performance-enhancing
12 drugs in interstate horseracing.

13 (4) A 2012 New York Times investigation
14 found that, on average, every week 24 horses die
15 racing, a high equine fatality rate likely caused by
16 the misuse of permitted medication and abuse of ille-
17 gal drugs.

18 (5) A 2013 horseracing industry study found
19 that a large majority of parimutuel wagering partici-
20 pants avoid wagering at certain tracks and when
21 certain trainers compete because they assume illegal
22 drug use affects race results.

23 (6) Total parimutuel wagering on Thorough-
24 bred horseracing in the United States declined 30
25 percent from 2002 to 2014.

1 (7) The Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 has
2 not met its original policy goal of furthering the
3 United States horseracing industry.

4 (b) BACKGROUND FOR INCLUDING THE NAME OF A
5 RACEHORSE IN SHORT TITLE.—The purpose in providing
6 the short title used in this Act is to honor horses who
7 died while competing in races with interstate, off-track wa-
8 gering authorized under the Interstate Horseracing Act of
9 1978. Coronado Heights was a Thoroughbred horse who
10 last competed as a four-year old on February 25, 2012.
11 A race observer noted that Coronado Heights broke down
12 just prior to reaching the end of the backstretch. The 4-
13 year-old Coronado Heights, whose veterinary records show
14 had “early degenerative joint disease”, suffered his fatal
15 breakdown at Aqueduct after receiving 13 injections for
16 pain and cartilage damage in the month before his race.

17 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF INTERSTATE HORSERACING ACT OF**
18 **1978.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Interstate Horseracing Act
20 of 1978 (Public Law 95–515; 15 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is
21 hereby repealed.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5362(10)
23 of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amend-
24 ed—

25 (1) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

- 1 (A) by striking subclause (I); and
2 (B) by redesignating subclauses (II), (III),
3 and (IV) as subclauses (I), (II), and (III), re-
4 spectively;
5 (2) in subparagraph (C)(iv)—
6 (A) by striking subclause (I); and
7 (B) by redesignating subclauses (II), (III),
8 and (IV) as subclauses (I), (II), and (III), re-
9 spectively;
10 (3) by striking subparagraph (D); and
11 (4) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
12 paragraph (D).

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