

GOLDEN CIRCLE
Testimony on S.B. 260
Senate Committee on State & Federal Affairs

February 17, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Golden Circle Historic Racing facility, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in conditional support of **S.B. 260, AN ACT concerning parimutuel wagering; relating to the Kansas Parimutuel Racing Act; modifying the qualifications for an organization license; redefining horsemen's associations and horsemen's nonprofit organizations; and changing the distribution of certain tax revenue.**

The Golden Circle is a historic horse racing facility slated to open in Park City in December of this year. The venue will operate **1,000 historic horse racing (HHR) machines** and offer **parimutuel wagering on simulcasts of live horse races from across the United States.** Additionally, the facility will feature various live entertainment options, including a **Gilley's concert hall.**

Support for the Intent of S.B. 260

The fundamental purpose of S.B. 260 is to direct a portion of tax revenue from HHR machines toward initiatives that benefit **horse racing and horse breeding** in Kansas. The Golden Circle fully supports this goal. However, upon reviewing the legislation, it is clear that **further clarification is necessary** to ensure the bill functions as intended.

Need for Legislative Clarification

In 2022, when the Legislature authorized **sports wagering**, it also approved the operation of **HHR machines at a single location in Sedgwick County**, limited to **1,000 machines.** This was achieved, in part, by modifying the definition of a **racetrack facility** to include: *"A facility used for the display of and wagering on simulcast races and the operation of historical horse race machines without any live horse or greyhound races being conducted."*

While this language successfully implemented the Legislature's intent, it did not anticipate **horsemen's associations applying for racetrack facility licenses** as none were offering live parimutuel racing at the time. As a result, the current language could lead to unintended interpretations of eligibility for additional HHR operations.

Proposed Amendment

To maintain the integrity of the original 2022 legislation while ensuring S.B. 260 achieves its purpose, we propose **a simple clarification:**

By specifying that **only one location in Sedgwick County is authorized to operate HHR machines**, the bill remains aligned with legislative intent while preventing unintended expansion.

We have worked with the revisor to draft an amendment that he can present at the Chairman's discretion. Additionally, we have discussed this clarification with the proponents of S.B. 260, and they **agree with the proposed amendment**.

Conclusion

This amendment ensures that S.B. 260 remains consistent with **the Legislature's original intent** while reinforcing **its support for Kansas horse racing and breeding programs**. We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this clarification and respectfully urge its adoption.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason P. Watkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" and last name "Watkins" clearly legible.

Jason P. Watkins