

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 745 State Symbols

SPONSOR(S): Hukill and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 266

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) State Affairs Committee	13 Y, 4 N	Thompson	Hamby
2) Rules & Calendar Committee		Thomas	Birtman

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Current law does not provide a designation for an official state sport. The bill designates the sport of automobile racing as the official state sport.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Automobile Racing

Current law prohibits street racing on highways, roadways, or parking lots. However, this prohibition does not apply to licensed or duly authorized racetracks, drag strips, or other designated areas set aside by proper authorities for such purposes.¹ As such, municipalities are authorized to issue a permit to conduct a racing event on a highway, street, or park;² and a written notice must be submitted by a person intending to hold a race to the sheriff in the county where a race will take place.³

Automobile racing, in general, is a professional and amateur automobile sport practiced throughout the world in a variety of forms on roads, tracks, or closed circuits. It includes Grand Prix racing, speedway racing, stock-car racing, sports-car racing, drag racing, midget-car racing, and karting, as well as hill climbs and trials.⁴

Automobile racing premiered in Florida between the years 1903 and 1910 on the suitable hard packed beaches within the communities of Ormond and Daytona. Races were held and speed records established for a variety of vehicles such as bicycles, motorcycles, and automobiles. Jacksonville and St. Augustine also hosted races as early as 1905 and 1906.⁵

In 1947, meetings began in Daytona Beach, which would eventually lead to the creation of the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).⁶ Currently, Florida is home to the NASCAR headquarters in Daytona Beach, the Daytona International Speedway, and the Homestead-Miami Speedway and serves as host to three annual NASCAR Sprint Cup Series events.⁷ In addition to NASCAR events, the Homestead-Miami Speedway hosts the Grand Prix of Miami, which is a GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series.⁸

The Sebring International Raceway in Sebring, Florida is America's oldest permanent road racing circuit. The circuit was created in 1950 from a WWII, B-17 training base called Hendricks Field. It hosts a twelve-hour endurance classic of the American Le Mans Series, featuring the same cars and drivers that compete in the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France.⁹ The circuit also hosts the Legends of Motorsports,¹⁰ the Historic Sportscar Racing series¹¹, and the Skip Barber Racing School.¹² Various types of cars such as the IndyCar, sports prototype, NASCAR, and Grand Touring teams use the Sebring circuit for winter testing.¹³

In addition to the major sanctioned automobile racing tracks, Florida is home to 50 local amateur tracks. Located throughout the state, these tracks provide local amateur racers and enthusiasts the

¹ See s. 316.191, F.S.

² See s. 549.08, F.S.

³ See s. 549.01, F.S.

⁴ Encyclopedia Britannica online, at <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/45020/automobile-racing> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

⁵ See Randal L. Hall, *Before NASCAR: The Corporate and Civic Promotion of Automobile Racing in the American South, 1903-1927*, *The Journal of Southern History*, (August 2002).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ HR 9115, 2010.

⁸ See <http://www.homesteadmiamispeedway.com/Tickets-Events/Events/2012/GRAND-AM-Series/Grand-Prix-of-Miami.aspx> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

⁹ See <http://www.lemans.org/en/> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

¹⁰ See <http://sebringraceway.com/legends.lasso> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

¹¹ See <http://sebringraceway.com/hsr.lasso> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

¹² See <http://www.skipbarber.com/location.asp?lid=SEBRING> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

¹³ Sebring International Raceway, <http://sebringraceway.com/news-1-16-2012-Historics.lasso> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

opportunity to be involved with the sport.¹⁴ In general, automobile racing attracts national and international participants and spectators and likely provides positive impacts to Florida's sports tourism industry.

State Designations

Current law designates 39 official state designations including an official state play, air fair, rodeo, festival, renaissance festival, pageant, and fiddle contest. However, current law does not provide a designation for an official state sport.¹⁵

Proposed Changes

This bill designates the sport of automobile racing as the official state sport.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 creates s. 15.0527, F.S., to designate automobile racing as the official state sport.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

¹⁴ Florida Race Track Directory of Asphalt & Dirt Tracks & Drag Strips available at <http://www.racingin.com/track/florida.aspx> (Last visited February 20, 2012).

¹⁵ See chapter 15, F.S.

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal government.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not appear to create a need for rulemaking or require additional rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.