

- 1 HB464
- 2 UZFLXDG-1
- 3 By Representative Travis (N & P)
- 4 RFD: Local Legislation
- 5 First Read: 18-Apr-24



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7	A BILL
8	TO BE ENTITLED
9	AN ACT
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11	Relating to the Greene County Racing Commission; to
12	amend Sections 45-32-150, 45-32-150.01, 45-32-150.02,
13	45-32-150.06, 45-32-150.07, 45-32-150.08, 45-32-150.11,
14	45-32-150.12, 45-32-150.13, 45-32-150.16, and 45-32-150.20,
15	Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the annual compensation of
16	members of the commission; to further provide for the duties
17	of members of the commission; to delete certain restrictions
18	on the number of racing days authorized; to increase the
19	authorized license fee; to establish a residency requirement
20	as a condition for licensure; to provide Legislative intent;
21	to further provide for the levy of a local tax on pari-mutuel
22	wagering; to further provide for the distribution of revenues;
23	and to repeal Section 45-32-150.19, Code of Alabama 1975,
24	relating to the manipulation of racing outcomes.
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
26	Section 1. Section 45-32-150, 45-32-150.01,
27	45-32-150.02, 45-32-150.06, 45-32-150.07, 45-32-150.08,
28	45-32-150.11, 45-32-150.12, 45-32-150.13, 45-32-150.16,



29 45-32-150.20, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as 30 follows:

31 "\$45-32-150

32 (a) The Greene County Racing Commission is hereby 33 created and established and is vested with the powers and 34 duties specified in this part, and all other powers necessary 35 and proper to enable it to execute fully and effectually the 36 purposes of this part. The official name of the commission 37 shall be Greene County Racing Commission, the same being sometimes referred to herein as the racing commission or the 38 39 commission.

(b) The commission shall consist of three persons who 40 41 shall be appointed by the <u>Governor</u> legislative delegation that 42 represents Greene County in the House and the Senate for the 43 State of Alabama. Each such member shall hold office for a term of **eight** hree years from the effective date of the 44 appointment; provided, however, the term of office of the 45 46 present three commissioners shall expire three years after 47 their last appointment.

48 (c) If a vacancy occurs for any reason, then that 49 position shall be filled for the unexpired term and that 50 commissioner shall be chosen in the same manner as other 51 commissioners are appointed.

52 (d) All books, records, maps, documents, and papers 53 shall constitute public records, and <u>shall</u> be available for 54 copying, examination, and inspection during all normal 55 business hours by any agency, official, or personnel." 56 "\$45-32-150.01



57 (a) The members of the commission shall be qualified 58 electors of Greene County and not less than 21 years of age, who shall have resided in the State of Alabama for a period of 59 60 five years next preceding their appointment. Each commissioner shall take the same constitutional oath of office as other 61 62 county officers, and shall give bond payable to the county in 63 the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), conditioned that 64 he or she shall faithfully and properly perform the duties of his or her office. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by 65 the commission. The commission may employ such assistance and 66 67 employees as may be necessary who shall be paid out of funds deposited in the county treasury to the credit of the racing 68 commission. 69

(b) A member of the racing commission may not be an official member of any board of directors, or person financially interested in any race track, pari-mutuel license, or race meeting licensed by the commission, nor shall he or she race dogs in any race meeting licensed by the commission." 5 "\$45-32-150.02

76 (a) The qualifications and manner of appointment of 77 members of the Greene County Racing Commission shall be set by 78 local law. The salary or other compensation of a member of the 79 Greene County Racing Commission shall be set by the local 80 legislative delegation that represents Greene County in the state Legislature. The compensation of each member of the 81 commission shall be twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) 82 annually. Each commissioner who attends a racing event or 83 84 performs the duties required by this part, at the facility,



shall receive an additional fifty dollars (\$50) per day. 85 86 (b) One member of the commission shall be in attendance 87 or on call to cover each 24-hour pari-mutuel dayrequired to be 88 in attendance at each racing event. 89 (c) Each member of the Greene County Racing Commission 90 shall be paid at the same rate as any other employee of the 91 Greene County Commission for attending any out-of-town meeting 92 on official business of the Greene County Racing Commission. 93 (d) The above compensation and other sums required to be paid under this section shall be paid out of the funds in 94 95 the county treasury deposited to the credit of the Greene County Racing Commission and shall be paid to the 96 97 commissioners in the same manner as the compensation of other county officers is paid." 98 99 "\$45-32-150.06 Any person, association, or corporation desiring to 100 operate a racetrack or pari-mutuel license in the county, 101 102 shall have the right, subject to this part, to hold and

109 "\$45-32-150.07

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110 No race or racing shall be permitted on Sunday. No
111 person_individual under 18 years of age shall_may be employed
112 in any manner about the race track or pari-mutuel license

conduct one or more racing meetings at the track each year,

association, or corporation, or to any track, for a period

including more than 313 racing days in any one year. The

racing days shall include the charity days as provided in

Section 45-32-150.21 for the racetrack."

provided that no such license shall be granted to any person,



113 except as exercise boys and grooms; nor shall persons under 18

114 years of age or be permitted to attend any race."

115 "\$45-32-150.08

116 <u>(a) On or before the first day of December of each</u>

117 year, anyAny person, association, or corporation possessing 118 the qualifications prescribed in this part shall have the 119 right to apply to the racing commission for a permit or 120 license to conduct race meetings and racing under this part.

121 (b) On or before the first day of January of each 122 year, Within 30 days after the receipt of any such application 123 under this section, the commission shall convene to consider 124 and act upon all permits or licenses applied for which an 125 application has been received.

(c) Approved permits or licenses shall be granted for a 126 127 period of not more than 10 years from the date of issuance and shall set forth, in addition to any other information 128 129 prescribed by the commission, the name of the licensee, the 130 location of the race track or pari-mutuel license, duration of 131 the race meeting, and the kind of racing desired to be 132 conducted and shall show the receipt by the commission of a license fee set by the commission, the setting of which is 133 hereby authorized, provided, however, the license fee shall 134 135 not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) annually. 136 (d) The fee for the license shall be established by the 137 commission. The annual license fee may not exceed twenty-five

138 thousand dollars (\$25,000) or, for multi-year contracts, not

139 more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each year

140 of the multi-year contract.



141	(e) No-such license issued under this section shall be
142	transferable, nor shall it apply to any other place, track, or
143	enclosure <u>,</u> except the one specified in this license with the
144	approval of the commission.
145	(1)(f) The commission shall not issue any licenses
146	which would permit any two race tracks in the county to
147	operate on the same racing days. Further, after the first
148	license has been issued to the licensee, all subsequent
149	applications for The commission may issue no more than two
150	racetrack or pari-mutuel licenses and may permit the licensees
151	to operate on the same days.
152	(g) When applying to renew a license, by a permit
153	holder the application shall be accompanied by proof, in such a
154	form as the commission may require, that the licensee still
155	possesses the qualifications set out in this part. Such <u>The</u>
156	application for renewal of licenses a license shall be granted
157	upon the same terms and conditions as previously issued and
158	shall not be denied except for due cause.
159	(h) An application for a license to operate a racetrack
160	or pari-mutuel pool shall only be granted if the applicant is
161	one of the following:
162	(1) A corporation, association, company, partnership,
163	or other legal entity that has been incorporated, organized,
164	or otherwise established in this state that currently holds a
165	racetrack or pari-mutuel license immediately preceding the
166	date on which the license is issued.
167	(2) A corporation, association, company, partnership,
168	or other legal entity that has been incorporated, organized,



169	or otherwise established in this state for at least five years
170	or whose managing member or majority officer has been a
171	resident of this state for at least five years immediately
172	preceding the date on which the license is issued.
173	(3) An individual who has been a resident of this state
174	for at least five years immediately preceding the date on
175	which the license is issued.
176	(2) (i) Seventy-fiveTo the best of a licensee's ability,
177	$\overline{75}$ percent of the employees of the track or tracks shall be
178	bona fide resident citizens of Greene County, Alabama."
179	"§45-32-150.11
180	The commission shall have the power to grant, refuse,
181	suspend, or withdraw licenses to all persons connected with
182	race tracks, including gate keepers, announcers, ushers,
183	starters, officials, drivers, dog owners, agents, trainers,
184	grooms, stable foremen, exercise boys, veterinarians, valets,
185	sellers of racing forms or bulletins, and attendants in
186	connection with the wagering machines, pursuant to such <u>the</u>
187	rules and regulations as adopted by the commission may adopt
188	and upon the payment of a license fee as fixed and determined
189	by the commission in accordance with the position and
190	compensation of such person. Any license may be revoked by the
191	commission, at its discretion, and any person whose license is
192	revoked shall be ineligible to participate in such occupation
193	connected with racing unless the license is returned by the
194	commission with permission to operate thereunder. The
195	commission may deny or revoke a license to any person who has
196	been refused or denied a license by any other state racing



197 commission or racing authority."

198 "\$45-32-150.12

199 (a) The commission shall make rules governing, 200 permitting, and regulating the wagering on dog races under the 201 form of mutuel wagering by patrons known as pari-mutuel 202 wagering, which method shall be legal to the extent that and so long as, the same is carried on and conducted strictly in 203 204 conformity with this part, and not otherwise. Only the 205 persons, associations, or corporations receiving a license 206 from the commission shall have the right or privilege to 207 conduct this type of wagering and the licenses shall restrict and confine this form of wagering to a space within the race 208 209 meeting grounds. All other forms of wagering on the result of 210 dog races shall continue to be illegal, and any or all 211 wagering outside of the enclosure of such races, where such 212 races shall have been licensed by the commission shall be 213 illegal.

214 (b) No person or corporation shall directly or 215 indirectly purchase pari-mutuel tickets or participate in the 216 purchase of any part of a pari-mutuel pool for another for 217 hire or for any gratuity and no person shall purchase any part 218 of a pari-mutuel pool through another, wherein he or she gives 219 or pays directly or indirectly such other person anything of 220 value. Any person violating this section shall be deemed 221 guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be punished by a fine of not 222 more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or by imprisonment not 223 224 to exceed six months, or both fine and imprisonment in the



225 discretion of the court.

(c) In addition to other rules and regulations that may be <u>promulgatedadopted</u> by the racing commission, the following shall be complied with by the licensee or operator of the race plant and employees thereof.

(1) A duly licensed veterinarian shall be on the grounds at weighing time and make examination of the physical condition of each greyhound, and any dog not considered to be in good physical condition, shall be reported to the presiding official.

235 (2)(1) An adequate security force shall be employed as 236 prescribed by the racing commission. Members of security force 237 shall have the same powers as other law enforcement officers 238 of the county while performing their duties on the premises of 239 the racetrack.

240 (3)(2) Public liability insurance shall be carried by 241 the licensee or operator in an amount and with a company 242 approved by the racing commission.

243 <u>(4)(3)</u> A pari-mutuel ticket shall not be sold to an 244 individual who is visibly inebriated.

245 (5) The racing operator is authorized to open the 246 Greene County Racetrack for business and to conduct live 247 greyhound racing and or televised horse or greyhound racing and pari-mutuel wagering during the hours as it deems 248 249 desirable, however in no event shall the racing commission be authorized to allow live greyhound racing or televised horse 250 or greyhound racing, or both, and pari-mutuel wagering thereon 251 252 to be conducted after 2:00 AM on Sunday; provided that the



253 racing operator shall not conduct any live racing event at the Greene County Racetrack before 10:00 AM, nor shall it present 254 255 any televised racing event before 8:00 AM with the hour to be 256 determined according to the time then applicable in Alabama. 257 the racing operator keeps the Greene County Racetrack open for business until midnight on any day, whether conducting 258 259 pari-mutuel wagering on live racing or televised racing, or 260 both, the racing operator may continue all or any of its 261 operations past midnight for not exceeding the first two hours of the following day, even if the following day is not a day 262 263 on which the Greene County Racetrack is scheduled to be open for business as a racing day permitted under this part, and 264 265 the time, not exceeding two hours, for which the operations of 266 the racetrack are continued into the following day shall not 267 be counted as a racing day or any part thereof against the limit of racing days permitted the racing operator in any one 268 vear. A pari-mutuel ticket shall not be sold to an individual 269 270 who is visibly inebriated.

271 <u>(6) (4)</u> Notwithstanding the provisions of this part and 272 any rules and regulations of the racing commission now in 273 effect, there shall be no limit imposed upon the number of 274 races which may be conducted within a single racing program."

275

"§45-32-150.13

276 <u>(a)</u> Every licensee conducting race meetings under this 277 part, shall pay to the ex-officio treasurer of the racing 278 commission, for the use of the commission, a tax in an amount 279 equal to four percent of the total contributions to all 280 simulcast pari-mutuel pools conducted or made on any race



281 track or pari-mutuel licenseelicensed under this part. The 282 commission of a licensee on a pari-mutuel pool shall in no 283 event exceed 18 percent of the amount contributed to the 284 pari-mutuel pool, which amount shall include the four percent 285 tax heretofore provided. After the deduction of the four 286 percent for the use of the commission and the percentage 287 commission of the licensee, the remainder of the total 288 contributions to each pool shall be divided among and 289 redistributed to the contributors to such pools betting on the 290 winning dog. The amount of each redistribution for each 291 winning bet placed shall be determined by dividing the total 292 amount remaining in the pool after the deductions hereinabove 293 provided for by the number of bets placed on the winning dog. 294 Each redistribution shall be made in a sum equal to the next 295 lowest multiple of 10. The licensee is entitled to retain the odd cents of all redistributions to be known as the breaks to 296 297 the dime, and all monies represented by any unclaimed, 298 uncashed, or abandoned pari-mutuel tickets known as outs 299 money. Under the pari-mutuel system of wagering herein 300 provided, the licensee shall be permitted to provide separate 301 pools for bets to win, place, and show and also a daily double 302 pool, a quiniela pool, double quiniela pool, trifecta pool, 303 and such other bets and pools as the commission may from time 304 to time allow. Each pool shall be redistributed separately as 305 herein provided. Should there be no ticket bet on the winning 306 dog, the entire pool shall be divided among the holders of tickets on the dog running next in line until the pool has 307 308 been redistributed to the contributors. The licensee shall be



309 required to use a totalizator machine to record the wagering and compute the odds. Rules and regulations governing the 310 operation of each of the pools shall be set out in book form 311 312 by the racing commission. The licensee shall collect from each 313 person attending the race meeting under this part 15 percent 314 of the established admissions price or ten cents (\$.10), 315 whichever sum is greater, as an admission tax. Licensees shall 316 make payment of such taxes to the ex-officio treasurer of the 317 racing commission every tenth calendar day of any and every race meeting, which payment shall be accompanied by a report 318 319 on the races covered by such report and such other information as the commission may require. Every license issued by the 320 321 commission shall contain the terms, conditions, provisions, percentage commissions of licensee, and tax as set forth in 322 323 this section, which such terms, conditions, provisions, percentage commission of licensee, and tax shall not be 324 325 altered or changed during the term of such license without the 326 mutual consent of the commission and licensee. 327 (b) Every licensee conducting historical horse racing 328 under this part shall pay to the ex-officio treasurer of the

329 racing commission, for the use of the commission, a tax in an

330 amount equal to four percent of the total contributions less

331 prizes paid to winners from all historical horse racing

332 pari-mutuel pools conducted or made on any racetrack or

333 pari-mutuel licensee under this part. The tax may be adjusted

334 as determined necessary by the commission but shall not exceed

335 four percent."

336 "\$45-32-150.16



337 All fees, commissions, taxes, and other monies, 338 including fines and forfeitures, received under this part 339 shall be paid to the Treasurer of Greene County and deposited 340 by the treasurer in the county treasury to the account of the 341 Greene County Racing Commission. All such monies remaining, 342 after payment of expenses incurred in the administration of 343 this part, including the payment of the salaries and expenses 344 of the members and employees of this commission, shall be distributed on a quarterly basis as follows: 345

(1) There shall be distributed to the Greene County
Commission an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand
dollars (\$200,000) per year:

349 a. To pay principal of and interest on bonds, warrants, 350 or other securities at any time thereafter issued by the 351 Greene County Commission for the purpose of providing and 352 equipping the existing jail facility; or constructing new jail 353 facilities and renovating, improving, and equipping existing 354 jail facilities.

355 b. To enable the county to make lease rental payments 356 to any public corporation in an amount sufficient to retire 357 bonds or other securities issued by such public corporation 358 for the purpose of providing funds to pay cost of acquiring, 359 providing, construction, and equipping a new jail facility; 360 renovating, improving, and equipping the existing jail 361 facility; or constructing new jail facilities and renovating 362 existing jail facilities, or any combination thereof.

363 c. To pay principal of and any interest on bonds,
364 warrants, or other securities at any time hereafter issued by



365 the Greene County Commission for the purpose of providing 366 funds to pay costs of acquiring, providing, constructing, and 367 equipping a new county courthouse; renovating, improving, and 368 equipping the existing county courthouse.

369 d. To enable the county to make lease rental payments 370 to any public corporation in an amount sufficient to retire 371 bonds or other securities issued by such public corporation 372 for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs of acquiring, 373 providing, construction, and equipping a new county courthouse; renovating, improving, and equipping the existing 374 375 county courthouse; or acquiring, providing, constructing, and equipping a new county courthouse and renovating, improving, 376 377 and equipping the existing county courthouse or any 378 combination thereof. At such time as the principal and 379 interest bonds, warrants, or other securities heretofore mentioned are satisfied, then the sum shall be prorated 380 381 equally as provided in the following subdivisions (2), (3), 382 (4), and (5).

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The balance is to be distributed as follows:

384 (2) Twenty-five percent of the monies shall be 385 appropriated to the municipalities of Greene County on a per 386 capita basis according to the most recent population figures 387 used by the federal government for the purpose of revenue 388 sharing, or if these figures are not available, the most 389 recent federal decennial census shall be used.

390 (3) Five percent to the Greene County Hospital Board.
391 (4) Thirty percent of the monies shall be appropriated
392 to the Greene County Board of Education.



393 (5) Forty percent of the monies shall be appropriated 394 to the General Fund of Greene County to be allocated and spent 395 in the following prescribed manner: 396 a. Fifty-five and one-halfForty percent of this amount 397 shall remain unearmarked and may be spent in any manner, 398 provided by law, for the benefit of the citizens of Greene 399 County, by the county governing body thereof. 400 b. Ten percent to be used by the county governing body 401 to upgrade law enforcement in the county. c. Eight and one-half percent to be used by the county 402 403 governing body for the benefit of the fire department. 404 e.d. Eight percent for the maintenance of a county 405 ambulance service. 406 d.e. TwoSix percent for the establishment and 407 maintenance of day care centers within the county. e.f. Three and one-half percent to be appropriated to 408 409 the Greene County Library Association for the upgrading of the 410 library system. 411 f.g. One percent to be appropriated to the Community 412 Services Programs of Tuscaloosa-Bibb Counties, Incorporated, 413 to be used for assistance to low income residents of Greene 414 County. 415 q.h. Two percent to be appropriated to West Alabama 416 Mental Health Center, Incorporated, to be used for mental 417 health services within Greene County. h.i. One percent to be appropriated to the Greene 418 County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). 419 420 i.j. Two and one-half percent to be appropriated to the



421 Society of Folk Arts and Culture, Incorporated, for culture 422 and youth development.

423 $j \cdot k$. One percent to be appropriated to the Greene 424 County Commission to be used as follows:

425 1. One-third of the one percent thereof to be used by426 the county commission in cultural and historical preservation.

427 2. One-third of the one percent thereof to the Greene
428 County Historical Society for their use in restoring and
429 preserving historic sites and buildings in the county.

430 3. One-third of the one percent thereof to the Alabama431 Civil Rights Educational Freedom Museum, Incorporated.

432 k.l. Two percent to the Greene County Health Department 433 to be used for general health care in Greene County and to 434 augment the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and related 435 health programs in Greene County.

436 <u>l.m.</u> Three percent to be appropriated to the Parks and 437 Recreation Board. No more than 15 percent of the three percent 438 thereof shall be used for maintenance and development of the 439 Greene County Golf Course.

440 m.n. Four and one-half percent to Greene County 441 Community Improvement Association for the construction, 442 renovation, and operation of community centers in Tishabee, 443 Clinton, Dollarhide, Knoxville, Mantua, and Mt. Hebron. When 444 the foregoing facilities have been constructed and renovated 445 in these communities, then the funds shall be designated for 446 the general use and operations of the Greene County Community Improvement Association for the construction of additional 447 448 community centers and the operation of community centers in



449 Greene County.

450 <u>n.o.</u> One and three-quarters percent to be appropriated 451 to Branch Heights.

452 ••<u>p</u>. Three-quarters percent to be appropriated to the 453 county department of human resources.

454 p.q. One and one-half percent to be appropriated to the 455 E-911 system.

456

r. Two percent to the local legislative delegation."

457 "\$45-32-150.20

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to transmit or 458 459 communicate to another by any means whatsoever the results, changing odds, track conditions, or any other information 460 461 relating to any greyhound race from any race track in this 462 county, between the period of time beginning one hour prior to 463 the first race of the day and ending 30 minutes after the posting of the official results of each race, as to that 464 465 particular race, except that this period may be reduced to 466 permit the transmitting of the results of the last race each day not sooner than 15 minutes after the official posting of 467 468 such results. Provided, however, that the commission may, by 469 rule, permit the immediate transmission by radio, television, 470 or press wire of any pertinent information concerning feature 471 races.

472 (b)(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to transmit 473 by any means whatsoever racing information to any other 474 person, or to relay the same to any other person by word of 475 mouth, by signal, or by use of telephone, telegraph, radio, or 476 any other means, when the information is knowingly used or



477 intended to be used for illegal gambling purposes, or in 478 furtherance of such gambling purposes.

479 (c) (b) Any person violating this section shall be 480 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned 481 in the state penitentiary for not less than one year nor more 482 than 10 years, or shall be fined not less than one thousand 483 dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), 484 or both, in the discretion of the court."

485 Section 2. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that a computerized machine, which replays actual 486 487 historical horse races and allows pari-mutuel wagering thereon, is already a permissible lawful activity at each of 488 489 the four pari-mutuel wagering racetracks in the State of 490 Alabama. The Legislature hereby further finds and declares 491 that a uniform local tax on the handle from pari-mutuel 492 wagering on these historical horse racing computerized 493 machines is necessary for the licensed racetrack and 494 pari-mutuel licenses located in Greene County so that such 495 racetrack and pari-mutuel licenses can be competitive with the 496 other racetracks and pari-mutuel licenses located in the State 497 of Alabama.

(b) For purposes of this act, pari-mutuel wagering on historical horse racing computerized machines may be conducted without regard to any of the following: (i) The type of graphics on the machine used to conduct the activity; whether the patron chooses a specific horse upon which to wager; and (iii) whether the patron watches all or part of the historical race.



505 (c) The local tax on pari-mutuel wagering on historical 506 horse races on these computerized machines at the Greene 507 County racetrack and other pari-mutuel licenses shall be 508 calculated at a rate up to four percent and the state tax rate 509 shall be levied at one percent and shall be collected, 510 administered, and distributed in the same manner and on the 511 same terms as are applicable to the local pari-mutuel tax on 512 live greyhound racing conducted at the Greene County racetrack 513 and pari-mutuel licenses, provided that the total handle less 514 prizes paid to winners from pari-mutuel wagering of historical 515 horse races on these computerized machines shall be separately calculated from any other racing handle, live or simulcast, 516 517 and provided further, that the local tax shall be in lieu of 518 any local tax on pari-mutuel wagering on historical horse 519 races on these computerized machines that may otherwise be imposed under Section 45-32-151.02, Code of Alabama 1975. 520 521 Section 3. Section 45-32-150.19, Code of Alabama 1975, 522 relating to the manipulation of race outcomes, is repealed. 523 Section 4. This act shall become effective immediately

524 upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or its 525 otherwise becoming law.