

Subject Racehorse residency pilot program

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Overview

This bill would establish a thoroughbred racehorse residency, aftercare, and benevolence pilot program; establish the thoroughbred racehorse pilot program account in the agricultural fund; and appropriate money for grants and awards.

Summary

Section Description

- 1 **Thoroughbred racehorse residency, aftercare, and benevolence pilot program.**
- Subd. 1 Definitions.** Defines terms for purposes of the thoroughbred racehorse residency, aftercare, and benevolence pilot program.
- Subd. 2. Establishment.** Establishes the pilot program under the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).
- Subd. 3. Minnesota resident thoroughbred registry.** Requires the MDA to compile and maintain a voluntary registry of thoroughbred racehorses. Requires applicants to apply to the MDA for registration, pay a nonrefundable fee of \$100, and demonstrate that the applicant's racehorse resided at a racetrack for at least 120 days during the previous calendar year.
- Subd. 4. Residency awards.** Requires racetracks to award \$750 to the owner of a registered racehorse if the racehorse started a race at the racetrack that racing day. Directs MDA to reimburse racetracks for these awards.
- Subd. 5. Repurposing grants.** Directs MDA to award grants to certain organizations and programs to retrain and repurpose retired registered racehorses.
- Subd. 6. Mental health and education grants.** Directs MDA to award grants to organizations for mental health and education services for stable workers or others in the racetrack local community.

Section	Description
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Subd. 7. Account; appropriation. Establishes the thoroughbred racehorse pilot program account in the agricultural fund. Appropriates the application fee revenue from subdivision 3 to this account. Sets a minimum allocation amount for grants under subdivision 5 at \$500,000. Sets a minimum allocation amount for grants under subdivision 6 at \$500,000.

Subd. 8. Expiration. Limits the pilot program from its effective date to July 1, 2028.

2 **Transfer.**

Transfers \$7,000,000 from the general fund to the thoroughbred racehorse pilot program account in the agricultural fund in fiscal year 2026.



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