

2023 Kansas Statutes

74-8815. Facility owner license and facility manager license. (a) Any person, partnership, corporation or association, or the state of Kansas or any political subdivision thereof, may apply to the commission for a facility owner license to construct or own, or both, a racetrack facility which includes a racetrack and other areas designed for horse racing or greyhound racing, or both.

(b) Any person, partnership, corporation or association may apply to the commission for a facility manager license to manage a racetrack facility.

(c) A facility owner license or a facility manager license shall be issued for a period established by the commission but not to exceed 25 years. The application for a facility owner license shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$5,000. An application for a facility manager license shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$5,000. If the application fee is insufficient to pay the reasonable expenses of processing the application and investigating the applicant's qualifications for licensure, the commission shall require the applicant to pay to the commission, at such times and in such form as required by the commission, any additional amounts necessary to pay such expenses. No license shall be issued to an applicant until the applicant has paid such additional amounts in full, and such amounts shall not be refundable except to the extent that they exceed the actual expenses of processing the application and investigating the applicant's qualifications for licensure.

(d) If an applicant for a facility owner license is proposing to construct a racetrack facility, such applicant, at the time of submitting the application, shall deposit with the commission, in such form as prescribed by rules and regulations of the commission, the sum of: (1) \$500,000, if the number of racing days applied for by organization licensee applicants proposing to race at the facility is 150 days or more in a racing season; (2) \$250,000, if such number of racing days applied for is less than 150 days; or (3) a lesser sum established by the commission, if the applicant is the state or a political subdivision of the state. Only one such deposit shall be required for a dual racetrack facility. The executive director shall remit any deposit received pursuant to this subsection to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the racing applicant deposit fund created by K.S.A. 74-8828, and amendments thereto. If the application is denied by the commission, the deposit, and any interest accrued thereon, shall be refunded to the applicant. If the license is granted by the commission in accordance with the terms of the application or other terms satisfactory to the applicant, the deposit, and any interest accrued thereon, shall be refunded to the licensee upon completion of the racetrack facility in accordance with the terms of the license. If the licensee fails to complete the racetrack facility in accordance with the terms of the license, the deposit, and any interest accrued thereon, shall be forfeited by the applicant.

(e) A facility owner license shall be granted only to an applicant that already owns an existing racetrack facility or has submitted with its application detailed plans for the construction of such facility, including the means and source of financing such construction and operation sufficient to convince the commission that such plans are feasible. A facility manager license shall be granted only to an applicant that has a facility management contract with an organization licensed pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8813, and amendments thereto.

(f) An applicant for a facility owner license or facility manager license, or both, shall not be granted a license if there is substantial evidence that the applicant for the license, or any officer or director, stockholder, member or owner of or other person having a financial interest in the applicant:

(1) Has been suspended or ordered to cease operation of a parimutuel racing facility in another jurisdiction by the appropriate authorities in that jurisdiction, has been ordered to cease association or affiliation with such a racing facility or has been banned from such a racing facility;

(2) has been convicted by a court of any state or of the United States of any criminal act involving fixing or manipulation of parimutuel races, violation of any law involving

gambling or controlled substances or drug violations involving horses or greyhounds, or has been adjudicated in the last five years in any such court of committing as a juvenile an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute such a criminal act, or if any employee or agent assisting the applicant in activities relating to ownership or management of a racetrack facility or to the conduct of races has been so convicted or adjudicated;

(3) has been convicted by a court of any state or of the United States of any felony involving dishonesty, fraud, theft, counterfeiting, alcohol violations or embezzlement, or has been adjudicated in the last five years in any such court of committing as a juvenile an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute such a felony, or if any employee or agent assisting the applicant in activities relating to ownership or management of a racetrack facility or to the conduct of races has been so convicted or adjudicated;

(4) has not demonstrated financial responsibility sufficient to meet the obligations being undertaken pursuant to its contract with the organization licensee;

(5) is not in fact the person or entity authorized to or engaged in the licensed activity;

(6) is or becomes subject to a contract or option to purchase under which 10% or more of the ownership or other financial interest or membership interest are subject to purchase or transfer, unless the contract or option has been disclosed to the commission and the commission has approved the sale or transfer during the license period;

(7) has made a statement of a material fact in the application or otherwise in response to official inquiry by the commission knowing such statement to be false; or

(8) has failed to meet any monetary or tax obligation to the federal government or to any state or local government, whether or not relating to the conduct or operation of a race meet held in this state or any other jurisdiction.

(g) No person or entity shall be qualified to hold a facility manager license if such person or entity, or any director, officer, employee or agent thereof, is addicted to, and a user of, alcohol or a controlled substance.

(h) All facility owner licenses and facility manager licenses shall be reviewed annually by the commission to determine if the licensee is complying with the provisions of this act and rules and regulations of the commission and following such proposed plans and operating procedures as were approved by the commission. The commission may review a facility owner license or facility manager license more often than annually upon its own initiative or upon the request of any interested party. The commission shall require each facility owner licensee and each facility manager licensee to file annually with the commission a certified financial audit of the licensee by an independent certified public accountant, which audit shall be open to inspection by the public, and may require any such licensee to provide any other information necessary for the commission to conduct the annual or periodic review.

(i) Subject to the provisions of subsection (j), the commission, in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act, may suspend or revoke a facility owner or facility manager license or may impose a civil fine not exceeding \$10,000 per failure or violation, or may both suspend such license and impose such fine, if the commission finds probable cause to believe that:

(1) In the case of a facility owner licensee, the licensee has failed to follow one or more provisions of the licensee's plans for the financing, construction or operation of a racetrack facility as submitted to and approved by the commission; or

(2) in the case of either a facility owner licensee or facility manager licensee, the licensee has violated any of the terms and conditions of licensure provided by this section or any other provision of this act or any rule and regulation of the commission.

(j) Prior to suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to subsection (i), the commission shall give written notice of the reason therefor to the licensee and all other interested parties. The licensee shall have 30 days from receipt of the notice to cure the alleged failure or violation, if it can be cured. If the commission finds that the failure or violation has not been cured upon expiration of the 30 days or upon a later deadline granted by the commission, or if the alleged violation is of such a nature that it cannot be cured, the commission may proceed to suspend or revoke the licensee's license pursuant to subsection (i). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to

preclude the commission from imposing a fine pursuant to subsection (i) even if the violation is cured within 30 days or such other period as provided by the commission.

(k) If an applicant for a facility owner license proposes to construct a racetrack facility and the commission determines that such license should be issued to the applicant, the commission shall issue to the applicant a facility owner license conditioned on the submission by the licensee to the commission, within a period of time prescribed by the commission, of a commitment for financing the construction of the racetrack facility by a financial institution or other source, subject to approval by the commission. If such commitment is not submitted within the period of time originally prescribed by the commission or such additional time as authorized by the commission, the license shall expire at the end of such period.

(l) If a facility owner licensee's license authorizes the construction of a dual racetrack facility, such license shall be conditioned on the completion of such facility within a time specified by the commission. If, within the time specified by the commission, the licensee has not constructed a dual racetrack facility in accordance with the plans submitted to the commission pursuant to subsection (e), the commission, in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act, shall:

(1) Impose upon the licensee a civil fine equal to 5% of the total parimutuel pools for all races held at the licensee's facility on and after the date that racing with parimutuel wagering is first conducted at such facility and until the date that construction of the dual racetrack facility is completed and horse racing has begun; and

(2) revoke the licensee's license unless the licensee demonstrates reasonable cause for the failure to complete the facility.

(m) The refusal to renew a facility owner license or a facility manager license shall be in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act and shall be subject to review under the Kansas judicial review act.

(n) The grant or denial of an original facility owner license or facility manager license shall not be subject to the Kansas administrative procedure act. Such grant or denial shall be a matter to be determined in the sole discretion of the commission, whose decision shall be final upon the grant of a license to one of two or more competing applicants without the necessity of a hearing on the denial of a license to each other competing applicant. Any action for judicial review of such decision shall be by appeal to the supreme court in accordance with the Kansas judicial review act, except that the scope of review shall be limited to whether the action of the commission was arbitrary or capricious or constituted an abuse of discretion. All competing applicants for the facility owner license or facility manager license shall be parties to such appeal. Any such appeal shall have priority over other cases except those having statutory priority.

(o) The commission may adopt rules and regulations regulating crossover employment between facility manager licensees and facility owner licensees and organization licensees.

History: L. 1987, ch. 112, § 15; L. 1988, ch. 316, § 3; L. 1988, ch. 317, § 2; L. 1988, ch. 318, § 2; L. 1988, ch. 319, § 2; L. 1991, ch. 247, § 2; L. 1992, ch. 286, § 7; L. 1996, ch. 262, § 5; L. 2001, ch. 5, § 343; L. 2010, ch. 17, § 192; July 1.