

**Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure  
2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) Bill Summary**

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**BILL NUMBER:** H347

**TITLE:** An Act regulating thoroughbred breeding

**SPONSOR(S):** Chan, Tackey

**HEARING DATE:** April 14, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** June 13, 2025

**CURRENT LAW**

Section 2 of Chapter 128 of the General Laws governs the powers and duties of the department of agricultural resources. Subsection (g) outlines the MA Thoroughbred Breeding Program, designed to incentivize thoroughbred horse breeding within the state with cash prizes awarded to owners of Massachusetts-bred thoroughbreds that place first, second, or third in pari-mutuel races. The Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Inc. sets bonus percentages in consultation with state officials and manages cash purses for Massachusetts-bred stakes races. Specific residency and registration requirements are mandated for horses to qualify as Massachusetts-bred. The association can use up to 8 per cent of program funds for advertising, marketing, promotion, and administration. The state auditor is required to audit the association's books.

**SUMMARY**

This legislation seeks to provide for an "accredited" program, in addition to the existing bred program, which would allow foals born outside of Massachusetts but who reside within the state for a continuous period of at least 90 days prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of its three-year-old year to become "accredited". Accredited horses would be eligible to receive awards in open races similar to Mass-breds. If an insufficient number of Mass-bred horses are available to fill a restricted race, accredited horses can fill the roster. Further, the Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Inc. may expend up to 12 per cent (up from 8 per cent) of funds for advertising, marketing, promotion, and administration of the thoroughbred breeding program in the commonwealth. Further, the state auditor shall annually audit the books to ensure compliance.