(2) Related horses [may] *shall not* be coupled as a single betting interest in a race, unless paragraph [(6)] *(3)* of this subdivision applies.

(3) [If more than two horses in a race are related horses, such horses shall be coupled as a single betting interest in such race, unless paragraph (6) of this subdivision applies.

(4)] The State steward may require any related horses entered in a race to be coupled as a single betting interest in a race prior to the commencement of wagering on-track and off-track, if such steward, in such steward's discretion, finds it necessary in the public interest.

[(5)] *(4)* If related horses are not coupled, the racetrack operator shall take such actions as are necessary to inform the public adequately with regard to the common ownership and/or trainer [that would otherwise make] *of* such horses [eligible to be coupled as a single betting interest pursuant to this subdivision].

[(6) No entry shall be coupled by reason of common ownership or training in any stakes race in which the gross purse is $50,000 or more, provided, however, that paragraph (4) of this subdivision shall apply in any such race. In any race subject to the provisions of this paragraph, the racing secretary shall have the authority to establish a mutuel field and coupled entries in any race with more than 14 starters.

(7)] *(5)* All horses trained or ridden by a spouse, parent, issue or member of a jockey's household shall not be considered related horses for the purposes of this subdivision.

[(c) Entries if related horses would exclude another horse. Up to two related horses are permitted to be drawn into any overnight race, or on the also-eligible list, provided, however, that two related horses shall not start to the exclusion of a single horse.]

Text of proposed rule and any required statements and analyses may be obtained from: Kristen Buckley, New York State Gaming Commission, 354 Broadway Center, PO Box 7500, Schenectady, NY 12305, (518) 388-3332, email: gamingrules@gaming.ny.gov

Data, views or arguments may be submitted to: Same as above.

Public comment will be received until: 60 days after publication of this notice.

This rule was not under consideration at the time this agency submitted its Regulatory Agenda for publication in the Register.

Regulatory Impact Statement

1. STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The New York State Gaming Commission ("Commission") is authorized to promulgate the proposed rule by Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law ("Racing Law") Sections 104(1) and (19) and 235(1).

Subdivision (1) of Section 104 confers upon the Commission general jurisdiction over all gaming activities within the State and over the corporations, associations and persons engaged in such activities. Subdivision (19) of Section 104 authorizes the Commission to promulgate any rules and regulations that it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

Subdivision (1) of Section 235 authorizes the Commission to make rules regulating the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering.

2. LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES: To enable the Commission to enhance the integrity of Thoroughbred horse racing and generate reasonable revenue for the support of government.

3. NEEDS AND BENEFITS: This rule making proposes to amend the Commission's regulations to not require coupling of horses for wagering purposes unless the State steward finds it necessary to do so in the public interest. Coupling is the combining of two or more horses in a race into a single betting interest, so that a bettor who wagers on such interest wins the bet if any of the coupled horses satisfies the bet condition (for example, to win, place or show). Historically, when horses had common ownership or a common trainer, coupling was thought to protect bettors on a weaker horse in the group, because the common owner or trainer might set up the race strategy to sacrifice the interest of the weaker horse in the grouping to the benefit of a stronger horse in the grouping. By requiring coupling, regulators permit the bettor to win a bet if any horse in the grouping satisfies the bet condition. Yet coupling requirements also reduce the number of betting interests in a race, and races with fewer betting interests are less appealing to the wagering public, thereby reducing revenue opportunity for the betting platforms and, indirectly, to government.

Regulated parties, including the New York Racing Association, Inc., Finger Lakes Racetrack, The New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and The New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc., have expressed to Commission staff that they support the elimination of coupling rules. Those supporting elimination contend that loosening coupling rules would increase betting interest and handle. They state that less restrictive coupling rules have been implemented successfully in other racing jurisdictions, such as California, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, Maryland and others, and that race-integrity concerns can be addressed as they arise through close analysis of stored video files of races. For example, the Commission promulgated the current Rule 4025.10(g) in 2015, which eliminated mandatory coupling in any stakes race with a purse of $50,000 or more.

In 2025, the Commission continued with its measured approach in amending the coupling rules by limiting the number of uncoupled entries with common ties in races to no more than two, continuing to empower the State steward to exercise discretion to couple when in the public interest, requiring the wager acceptor to provide adequate notice to the betting public concerning such entries and maintaining the current rule that limits the number (at two) of horses trained by the same trainer that may be drawn into a race to the exclusion of another horse. Commission staff studied the effect of the 2025 rule amendment and identified no systemic integrity risk to racing as a result of the change in coupling requirements.

The Commission believes that adoption of this rule making, by relaxing the requirement to couple horses, will enhance the ability to offer races with more betting interest, which will be appealing to the wagering public and enhance revenue, while continuing to protect bettors by requiring disclosure of related horses to the public. The State steward would retain the discretion to require coupling in any circumstances in which such steward concludes coupling is necessary in the public interest, which should continue to protect the interests of the wagering public in unusual or unforeseen circumstances in a particular race.

4. COSTS:

(a) Costs to regulated parties for the implementation and continuing compliance with the rule: None. No costs are imposed on any regulated entity as a result of the proposal.

(b) Costs to the regulating agency, the State, and local governments for the implementation and continued administration of the rule: No additional operating costs are anticipated as a result of the proposed rule.

(c) The information, including the source or sources of such information, and methodology upon which the cost estimate is based: The cost estimates are based on the Commission's experience with regulating Thoroughbred racing.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATES: None. The Commission is the only governmental entity authorized to regulate Thoroughbred racing activities.

6. PAPERWORK: The proposed rule imposes no changes in paperwork requirements.

7. DUPLICATION: The proposed regulation does not duplicate any existing State or federal requirements of the same or similar subject matter.

8. ALTERNATIVES: The Commission could continue the current rules. This alternative was rejected because the proposed rule would more effectively increase the number of betting interests in a race, and thereby potentially increase betting handle, while continuing to promote transparency of information to the betting public without compromising the integrity of the races.

9. FEDERAL STANDARDS: There are no federal standards applicable to this aspect of Thoroughbred racing.

10. COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE: The Commission anticipates that affected parties will be able to achieve compliance with these rules upon publication of the Notice of Adoption in the State Register.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Rural Area Flexibility Analysis and Job Impact Statement

The proposed rule making will amend the rules governing the circumstances under which horses must be coupled as a single betting interest in Thoroughbred horse racing. These amendments will not have any adverse impact on small businesses, local governments, jobs or rural areas.

The proposed rulemaking does not affect local governments and will not harm small businesses in New York State.

When adopted, the rule will apply uniformly throughout the State, and it will impose no adverse impact on rural areas.

This rule making will not limit or decrease job opportunities.

Because the proposed rulemaking will not adversely impact small businesses, local governments, jobs or rural areas, a full Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Rural Area Flexibility Analysis and Job Impact Statement are not required and have not been prepared.

PROPOSED RULE MAKING
NO HEARING(S) SCHEDULED

Furnishing of Information in Thoroughbred Racing

I.D. No. SGC-39-26-00033-P

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE State Administrative Procedure Act, NOTICE is hereby given of the following proposed rule:

Proposed Action: This is a consensus rule making to amend sections 4009.1, 4009.16 and 4025.6 of Title 9 NYCRR.

Statutory authority: Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law, sections 104(1), (19), 205, 235(1) and (3)

Subject: Furnishing of information in Thoroughbred racing.

Purpose: To update methods of providing information in Thorougbred racing.

Text of proposed rule: Sections 4009.1, 4009.16 and 4025.6 of 9 NYCRR would be amended to read as follows:

§ 4009.1. [Posting] *Public notice* of *wagering* rules.

[Such rules for pari-mutuel betting as may be specified from time to time by the commission shall be reproduced in legible type and permanently displayed in locations within all betting areas of the premises of racing associations] *Each association shall, on its website, direct the public to the page on the commission website where rules for pari-mutuel betting are provided or post such in legible type within all betting areas of the racetrack*. The daily racing programs [sold] *an association sells* to the public [by racing associations] shall contain a statement indicating that such rules are posted in all betting areas *or include a direction to the website address of the commission at which such rules are available*.

* * *

§ 4009.16. Record of calculations.

[(a) The association, if operating a pari-mutuel system without the totalisator system, shall, in taking off total or mutuel ticket sales, prepare two additional carbon copies thereof at the time of making and furnish the same to the respective designated representatives of the commission and State Tax Commission before the calculations for mutuel prices to be paid shall have been made.

(b)] At race meetings where [the] *a* totalisator [machine] *system* is operated, if *an association uses or undertakes* any additional method of calculation [is used or undertaken], *such association shall furnish* full records thereof [shall be furnished] to the commission and the [State Tax Commission] *Department of Taxation and Finance*.

* * *

§ 4025.6. Procedure for making entries.

Entries [and declarations] shall be made in writing*, by electronic means approved by the association, or by telephone,* [signed] by the *managing* owner of the horse or [of the engagement or by the] *an* authorized agent or some person deputed by [him or her] *such managing owner*[; and in order to secure privacy, all entries to overnight races must be made at a specially designated booth].

Text of proposed rule and any required statements and analyses may be obtained from: Kristen Buckley, New York State Gaming Commission, 354 Broadway Center, PO Box 7500, Schenectady, NY 12305, (518) 388-3332, email: gamingrules@gaming.ny.gov

Data, views or arguments may be submitted to: Same as above.

Public comment will be received until: 60 days after publication of this notice.

This rule was not under consideration at the time this agency submitted its Regulatory Agenda for publication in the Register.

Consensus Rule Making Determination

This proposed rulemaking will allow Thoroughbred racetracks to direct patrons to relevant information available on websites, in lieu of posting the information physically at the track; eliminate an obsolete filing requirement related to an era when totalisators were not always used; and allow race entries to be made electronically. These changes would modernize how information is required to be provided and would not inconvenience the public or regulated parties. An obsolete reference to the State Tax Commission would be updated.

Because this rule making would modernize the methods by which information is provided, the Commission does not anticipate public comment and no person is likely to object to the proposed revisions.

Job Impact Statement

A Job Impact Statement is not required for this consensus rulemaking proposal because the proposed amendments will not adversely affect jobs or employment opportunities.

This proposed rulemaking will modernize methods of providing information to bettors about wagering rules, eliminate an obsolete filing requirement related to an era when totalisators were not always used; and allow race entries to be made electronically. An obsolete reference to the State Tax Commission would be updated.

The proposed amendments will not have an impact on jobs or employment opportunities.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Modifying Reporting Year and Deadlines for Reports Under the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program

I.D. No. HES-22-26-00002-A
Filing No. 870
Filing Date: 2026-09-15
Effective Date: 2026-09-30

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE State Administrative Procedure Act, NOTICE is hereby given of the following action:

Action taken: Amendment of Part 210 of Title 9 NYCRR.

Statutory authority: General Municipal Law, section 205-cc(7); Executive Law, section 709(2)(n)

Subject: Modifying reporting year and deadlines for reports under the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program.

Purpose: To encourage compliance, consistency, enhanced accuracy of reports from fire districts, departments, and/or companies.

Text or summary was published in the June 3, 2026 issue of the Register, I.D. No. HES-22-26-00002-P.

Final rule as compared with last published rule: No changes.

Text of rule and any required statements and analyses may be obtained from: James Callahan, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, 1220 Washington Ave, Bldg. 7A, Albany, NY 12226, (518) 474-6746, email: Rule.Making@dhses.ny.gov

Assessment of Public Comment

The agency received no public comment.

Department of Labor

PROPOSED RULE MAKING
NO HEARING(S) SCHEDULED

Prevention of Retail Workplace Violence

I.D. No. LAB-39-26-00022-P

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE State Administrative Procedure Act, NOTICE is hereby given of the following proposed rule:

Proposed Action: Addition of Subpart 27-2 to Title 12 NYCRR.

Statutory authority: Labor Law, sections 27-e(6) and 21(11)

Subject: Prevention of Retail Workplace Violence.

Purpose: To promulgate regulations pursuant to NYS Labor Law section 27-e(6) regarding preventing retail workplace violence.

Text of proposed rule: A new Subpart 27-2 is added to Part 27 of Subchapter A of Chapter 1 of Title 12 of NYCRR as follows:

Subpart 27-2 – Prevention of Retail Workplace Violence

Section 27-2.1

(a) Definitions

(1) Easily Accessible. Any location that retail employees can quickly access in the event of an emergency. A location is not easily accessible if it is behind a locked door or other access point and retail employees cannot access it quickly.

(2) Employer. Any person, entity, business, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or an association employing at least 10 retail employees. The term employer shall not include the State, any political subdivision of the State, a public authority, or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

(3) Request for Immediate Assistance. A request, such as a notice or alert, transmitted immediately to a security officer, manager, or supervisor that notifies them of a need for immediate assistance.

(4) Retail Employee. Any employee working at a retail store for an employer.