

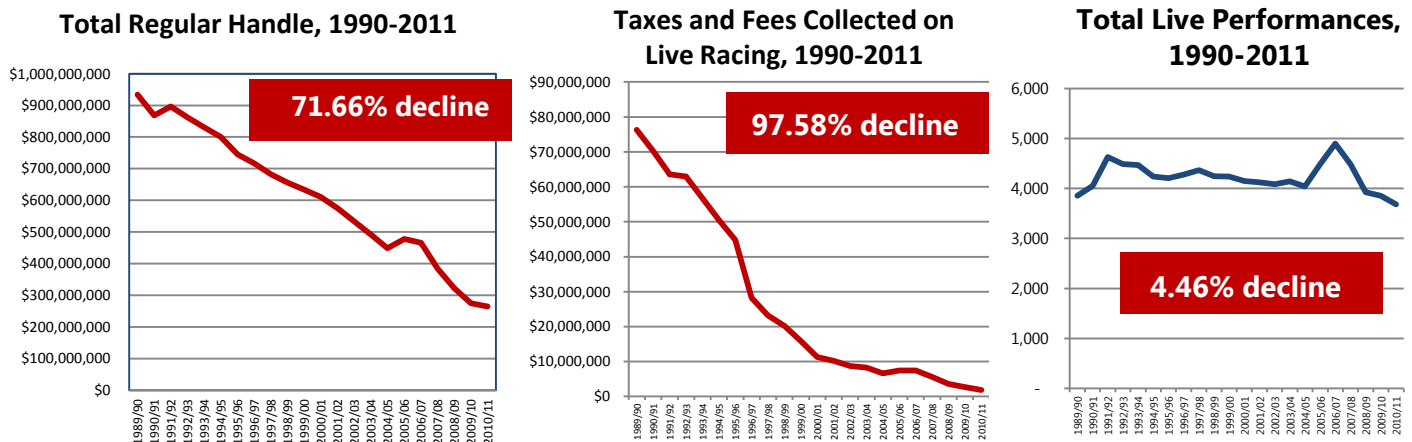
Decouple Live Greyhound Racing - *Support* HB 641 & SB 382

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry, and now exists in only seven states. A majority (13 of 22) of all operational greyhound tracks in the United States are in Florida. In Florida, the amount gambled on live dog racing declined by 57% between 2002 and 2010.
- Public opposition to greyhound racing is increasing due to humane concerns such as confinement and injuries. At Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in small cages barely large enough for the dogs to stand up or turn around. Additionally, since 2004 state investigators have documented at least nine cases of severe neglect at Florida dog tracks and associated kennel compounds.
- The mandatory racing requirement forces greyhound tracks to offer live greyhound racing as a “loss leader” for other, more viable forms of gambling. This comes at a significant cost to both taxpayers and track operators, and conflicts with free market principles.
- Decoupling is not about whether greyhound racing should or should not be legal in Florida, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another. This legislation does not expand gambling in any way.
- Since 1990 the amount of taxes collected by the state for live greyhound racing has declined by more than 96% from more than \$75 million in 1990 to less than \$2.7 million in 2010. We are now approaching the point where the cost for DBPR to regulate live greyhound racing may start to exceed the tax revenue collected from live racing.



Sweetie Pie of FL

Wagers and taxes collected from greyhound racing in Florida have dramatically declined from 1990 to 2010, yet state mandates require the number of live performances to remain steady.



Source: Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering