

Christine Stapleton

Committee endorses bill that could end greyhound racing

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A controversial House bill that would likely end greyhound racing in Florida and make way for slot machines at the Palm Beach Kennel Club passed a major hurdle this morning when it narrowly passed what supporters say was a “huge hurdle.”

After more than an hour of impassioned debate and public comment, the House Finance and Tax Committee approved HB 1233 by a vote of 10-8. Staff analysis of the bill can be viewed [here](#).

“This was a huge victory,” said Carey Thiel, sss of Grey2K USA, which has spearheaded efforts to end greyhound racing in Florida for years. “We knew this would be a tough committee and we were expecting a close vote but now I think we’re onto the floor.”

As it stands now, certain forms of gambling are only allowed at facilities that offer live racing. Tracks keep greyhound racing – even though it often is not profitable – so they can provide more lucrative slots and poker.

The bill would also extend the hours of operation for slot machines from 18 to 24-hours, 7 days a week. In addition, injuries to the dogs would have to be reported to the state and dogs put up for adoption must be sterilized.

