



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Public Protection Cabinet  
Kentucky Horse Racing Commission  
John T. Ward, Executive Director  
Robert Beck, Chairman

**Steve Beshear, Governor**

**Ambrose Wilson IV, Secretary**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Bob Beck to Step Down as Chair of Kentucky Horse Racing Commission**

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** (Dec. 1, 2015) – Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) Chairman Robert “Bob” Beck announced today that he will step down from his post effective Dec. 7, 2015. Beck, who has chaired the KHRC since his appointment by Governor Steve Beshear in 2008, made his decision known at the December meeting of the KHRC.

“This incredible opportunity to serve with a number of excellent industry leaders who are fellow members of the commission has helped re-establish Kentucky as the leader in Thoroughbred breeding and racing throughout the world,” said Beck. “I want to thank Gov. Beshear for his support and vision as we have enacted numerous pieces of key legislation and regulations that will serve the industry well for years to come.”

“Bob has led the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission through a difficult period, initially, when the fate of the horse industry in Kentucky was perilous,” said Gov. Beshear. “His leadership and determination are big reasons why Kentucky’s signature industry is once again flourishing.”

Among the initiatives Beck cited are the advent of Historical Horse Racing which has, since September 2011, seen more than \$1.2 billion wagered at three locations in Kentucky. Additionally, more than \$11.2 million has gone toward increased purses and another \$4.4 million put into the state’s General Fund. Other important milestones, Beck said, include the adoption of uniform medication rules and a regulation that allows racetracks to card non-Lasix races.

Beck also reminded commission members of their move to bring an internationally-recognized sports testing lab to Lexington, a partnership that has increased the ability of the KHRC to monitor post-race test results for many more substances than before. A replacement for Beck will be named by Gov.-elect Matt Bevin.