
Editorial: Time to pass greyhound 'decoupling' plan

Staff Reports

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Opponents of greyhound racing had a good idea last year.

They asked the Legislature to erase rules that required racetracks with card rooms to stage a certain number of dog races in order to retain the gambling privilege.

The proposed move was called decoupling.

It would have allowed each track to decide for itself.

At the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs, officials report racing is a \$5 million a year loser.

The proposal, it seemed to us at the time, was an astute blend of concern for animal rights and private enterprise.

Our hope was that when the marketplace decided, greyhound protectors would win their long and hard battle.

A win-win if we ever saw one.

Yet, the legislation did not get through. That is why the proposal is back again.

This time it resonates even more — with a state whose government leadership professes to be about more free enterprise and less red tape.

Let's keep it separate from other, more technical and complicated dealings about gambling.

Let's get it done.

