
HOUSE BILL 2327

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Kuderer, McCabe, Bergquist, Stanford, Pollet, and Moscoso

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1 AN ACT Relating to the protection of horses and other equines
2 from slaughter for human consumption; amending RCW 16.68.140;
3 reenacting and amending RCW 16.68.010; adding a new section to
4 chapter 16.52 RCW; creating new sections; and prescribing penalties.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) Horses and other equines are not bred and raised as part of
8 the human food chain in American society but are exclusively for
9 recreation, sports, and service. They are defined as nonfood animals
10 by the United States food and drug administration and are routinely
11 administered over three hundred veterinary medications specifically
12 banned by the food and drug administration for human food producing
13 animals.

14 (2) Allowing the slaughter of horses for human consumption or
15 allowing horses or their meat to be possessed, purchased, sold,
16 bartered, or transported for slaughter for human consumption
17 represents a grave threat to human health and life and should
18 therefore be made illegal in the state of Washington and punishable
19 as a felony.

20 (3) Horses cannot be killed humanely in large numbers, because
21 they are head shy and inquisitive animals, unlike traditional food

1 animals, and over forty percent of horses are still alive and
2 conscious when slung and gutted in even the most modern slaughter
3 plants, constituting an act of extreme animal cruelty.

4 (4) Equine slaughterhouses present a major pollution hazard
5 caused by horses having over four times the amount of blood of cattle
6 of equal weight, which does not break down into other usable products
7 and invariably impacts local water systems when disposed of.

8 (5) In every locale where horse slaughterhouses have operated
9 there has been an increase in crime rate because of the fringe
10 element these slaughterhouses employ.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 16.52
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including RCW
14 16.52.180, it is unlawful for any person to:

15 (a) Slaughter a horse if that person knows or should know that
16 any of the meat from the slaughtered animal is intended to be used
17 for human consumption;

18 (b) Possess, purchase, barter, or sell privately; purchase,
19 barter, or sell at retail; exhibit for barter or sale; or possess or
20 transport with the intent to barter or sell horses or horse meat if
21 that person knows or should know that the horse or its meat will be
22 used for human consumption; or

23 (c) Transport a horse or horse meat if that person knows or
24 should know that it is intended for human consumption.

25 (2) For the purposes of this section:

26 (a) "Horse" includes all members of the equine family, including
27 horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, hennys, asses, and burros.

28 (b) "Horse meat" means the flesh of any horse, including the
29 animal's viscera, skin, hair, hide, hooves, and bones.

30 (c) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership,
31 trust, association, or other legal entity.

32 (3) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C
33 felony. Each violation of this section constitutes a separate
34 offense, and each horse involved in a violation of this section
35 constitutes a separate offense.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 16.68.010 and 2011 c 336 s 438 are each reenacted
37 and amended to read as follows:

1 For the purposes of this chapter, unless clearly indicated
2 otherwise by the context:

3 (1) "Carcass" means all parts, including viscera, of a dead meat
4 food animal;

5 (2) "Dead animal" means the body of a meat food animal, or any
6 part or portion thereof: PROVIDED, That the following dead animals
7 are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

8 (a) Edible products from an edible meat food animal by a licensed
9 slaughtering establishment;

10 (b) Edible products where the meat food animal was slaughtered
11 under farm slaughter permit;

12 (c) Edible products where the meat food animal was slaughtered by
13 a bona fide farmer on his or her own ranch for his or her own
14 consumption;

15 (d) Hides from meat food animals that are properly identified as
16 to ownership and brands;

17 (3) "Director" means the director of agriculture;

18 (4) "Independent collector" means any person who does not own a
19 licensed rendering plant within the state of Washington but is
20 properly equipped and licensed to transport dead animals or packing
21 house refuse to a specified rendering plant.

22 (5) "Meat food animal" means only cattle, (~~horses, mules,~~
23 ~~asses,~~) swine, sheep, and goats;

24 (6) "Person" means any individual, firm, corporation,
25 partnership, or association;

26 (7) "Place of transfer" means an authorized reloading site for
27 the direct transfer of dead animals or packing house refuse from the
28 vehicle making original pickup to the line vehicle that will
29 transport the dead animals or packing house refuse to a specified
30 licensed rendering plant;

31 (8) "Rendering plant" means any place of business or location
32 where dead animals or any part or portion thereof, or packing house
33 refuse, are processed for the purpose of obtaining the hide, skin,
34 grease residue, or any other by-product whatsoever;

35 (9) "Substation" means a properly equipped and authorized
36 concentration site for the temporary storage of dead animals or
37 packing house refuse pending final delivery to a licensed rendering
38 plant.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 16.68.140 and 2011 c 336 s 444 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, ~~((to))~~ possess,
4 purchase, sell, offer to sell, or have on his or her premises horse
5 meat intended for ~~((other than))~~ human consumption or for any other
6 purpose unless said horse meat ~~((is))~~ has been decharacterized ~~((in a~~
7 ~~manner prescribed by the director))~~ by standards established by the
8 state veterinarian: PROVIDED, That this provision shall not apply to
9 carcasses slaughtered by a farmer for consumption on his or her own
10 ranch or to carcasses in the possession of a person licensed under
11 this chapter, or to canned horse meat meeting United States bureau of
12 animal industry regulations.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act does not preempt or preclude any
14 county or municipality from enacting or enforcing ordinances relating
15 to animal welfare.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its
17 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
18 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
19 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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