
HOUSE BILL 1025

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Appleton

Prefiled 12/06/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to the protection of horses and other equines
2 from slaughter for human consumption; amending RCW 16.52.180 and
3 16.68.010; adding a new section to chapter 16.52 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 15.130 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW
5 16.68.140; and prescribing penalties.

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

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

8 (1) Horses and other equines are not bred and raised as part of
9 the human food chain in America and the state of Washington but are
10 bred and raised exclusively as recreation, companion, sports,
11 service, and working animals. It is therefore the intent of the
12 legislature to define horses as nonfood animals for human consumption
13 under state law. Horses and other equines are already defined as
14 nonfood animals by the United States food and drug administration and
15 are therefore allowed to be routinely administered without regulation
16 over three hundred veterinary medications specifically determined to
17 be a health hazard for humans and expressly banned by the United
18 States food and drug administration for human food producing animals.

19 (2) Allowing the slaughter of horses and other members of the
20 equine species for human consumption or allowing horses and other
21 equines or their meat to be possessed, purchased, sold, bartered,

1 given freely, or transported for slaughter for human consumption,
2 represents a grave threat to human safety, health, and life and
3 should therefore be made illegal in the state of Washington and
4 punishable as a felony.

5 (3) Horses and other members of the equine species cannot be
6 killed or transported humanely in large numbers because they are fear
7 driven, head shy, and inquisitive animals, unlike other traditional
8 food producing animals, and a high percentage of horses are injured
9 or killed during transport or are still alive and conscious when
10 slung and gutted in even the most modern slaughterhouses,
11 constituting an act of extreme animal cruelty.

12 (4) Equine slaughterhouses present a major pollution hazard
13 caused by horses having 1.7 times the amount of blood of cattle of
14 equal weight, which does not break down into other usable products
15 and invariably impacts local water systems when disposed of.

16 (5) In other states where similar laws have been passed, it has
17 been found that eliminating equine slaughter has in no way increased
18 cases of neglect or abandonment of these animals, and in fact has
19 reduced the incidence of horse theft by approximately thirty percent
20 because many are stolen expressly to sell for this purpose.

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

23 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is unlawful
24 for any person to:

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

28 (b) Possess, purchase, barter, or sell privately; purchase,
29 barter, or sell at retail; exhibit for barter or sale or give freely;
30 or possess or transport with the intent to barter or sell, a horse if
31 that person knows or should know that the horse or its meat will be
32 used for human consumption; or

33 (c) Transport a horse over the roads and highways or by rail,
34 air, or sea in, into, through, or from Washington if that person
35 knows or should know that it is intended for human consumption.

36 (2) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

5 (3) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C
6 felony. Each individual violation of this section constitutes a
7 separate offense, and each horse involved in a violation of this
8 section constitutes a separate offense.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 15.130
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) The following acts, and the causing thereof, are prohibited:
12 The possession, purchase, barter, or sale privately; the purchase,
13 barter, or sale at retail; the exhibition for barter or sale or for
14 giving freely; or the possession or transport with the intent to
15 barter or sell, horse meat if that person knows or should know that
16 the horse meat will be used for human consumption.

17 (2) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C
18 felony.

19 (3) For the purpose of this section, "horse" and "horse meat"
20 have the same meaning as defined in section 2 of this act.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 16.52.180 and 1994 c 261 s 12 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 No part of this chapter, except section 2 of this act, shall be
24 deemed to interfere with any of the laws of this state known as the
25 "game laws," nor be deemed to interfere with the right to destroy any
26 venomous reptile or any known as dangerous to life, limb or property,
27 or to interfere with the right to kill animals to be used for food or
28 with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations,
29 which experiments or investigations shall be performed only under the
30 authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated college or
31 university of the state of Washington or a research facility
32 registered with the United States department of agriculture and
33 regulated by 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131 et seq.

34 **Sec. 5.** RCW 16.68.010 and 2011 c 336 s 438 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 For the purposes of this chapter, unless clearly indicated
37 otherwise by the context:

- 1 (1) "Carcass" means all parts, including viscera, of a dead meat
2 food animal;
- 3 (2) "Dead animal" means the body of a meat food animal, or any
4 part or portion thereof: PROVIDED, That the following dead animals
5 are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:
- 6 (a) Edible products from an edible meat food animal by a licensed
7 slaughtering establishment;
- 8 (b) Edible products where the meat food animal was slaughtered
9 under farm slaughter permit;
- 10 (c) Edible products where the meat food animal was slaughtered by
11 a bona fide farmer on his or her own ranch for his or her own
12 consumption;
- 13 (d) Hides from meat food animals that are properly identified as
14 to ownership and brands;
- 15 (3) "Director" means the director of agriculture;
- 16 (4) "Independent collector" means any person who does not own a
17 licensed rendering plant within the state of Washington but is
18 properly equipped and licensed to transport dead animals or packing
19 house refuse to a specified rendering plant.
- 20 (5) "Meat food animal" means only cattle, (~~horses, mules,~~
21 ~~asses,~~) swine, sheep, and goats;
- 22 (6) "Person" means any individual, firm, corporation,
23 partnership, or association;
- 24 (7) "Place of transfer" means an authorized reloading site for
25 the direct transfer of dead animals or packing house refuse from the
26 vehicle making original pickup to the line vehicle that will
27 transport the dead animals or packing house refuse to a specified
28 licensed rendering plant;
- 29 (8) "Rendering plant" means any place of business or location
30 where dead animals or any part or portion thereof, or packing house
31 refuse, are processed for the purpose of obtaining the hide, skin,
32 grease residue, or any other by-product whatsoever;
- 33 (9) "Substation" means a properly equipped and authorized
34 concentration site for the temporary storage of dead animals or
35 packing house refuse pending final delivery to a licensed rendering
36 plant.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 16.68.140 (Unlawful possession of
38 horse meat—Exceptions) and 2011 c 336 s 444 & 1949 c 100 s 15 are
39 each repealed.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act does not preempt or preclude any
2 county or municipality from enacting or enforcing more stringent
3 ordinances relating to the slaughter of horses and other equines for
4 human consumption or other aspects of animal welfare that pertain to
5 equines.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
7 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
8 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
9 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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