
HOUSE BILL 1110

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Appleton

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; creating new
4 sections; repealing RCW 16.68.140; 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 America and the state of Washington but are
9 bred and raised exclusively as recreation, companion, sports,
10 service, and working animals. It is therefore the intent of the
11 legislature to define horses as nonfood for human consumption animals
12 under state law. Horses and other equines are already defined as
13 nonfood animals by the United States food and drug administration and
14 are therefore allowed to be routinely administered without regulation
15 over three hundred veterinary medications specifically determined to
16 be a health hazard for humans and expressly banned by the United
17 States food and drug administration for human food producing animals.

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

1 represents a grave threat to human safety, health, and life and
2 should therefore be made illegal in the state of Washington and
3 punishable as a felony.

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

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

15 (5) In addition, in virtually every local community where horse
16 slaughterhouses have operated there has been an increase in the local
17 crime rate, including prevalence of violent crimes, due to the nature
18 of poorly paid and transient workers employed by these
19 slaughterhouses.

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

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

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

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

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

35 (2) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 16.52.180 and 1994 c 261 s 12 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 No part of this chapter, except section 2 of this act, shall be
10 deemed to interfere with any of the laws of this state known as the
11 "game laws," nor be deemed to interfere with the right to destroy any
12 venomous reptile or any known as dangerous to life, limb or property,
13 or to interfere with the right to kill animals to be used for food or
14 with any properly conducted scientific experiments or investigations,
15 which experiments or investigations shall be performed only under the
16 authority of the faculty of some regularly incorporated college or
17 university of the state of Washington or a research facility
18 registered with the United States department of agriculture and
19 regulated by 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131 et seq.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 16.68.010 and 2011 c 336 s 438 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 For the purposes of this chapter, unless clearly indicated
23 otherwise by the context:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (6) "Person" means any individual, firm, corporation,
8 partnership, or association;

9 (7) "Place of transfer" means an authorized reloading site for
10 the direct transfer of dead animals or packing house refuse from the
11 vehicle making original pickup to the line vehicle that will
12 transport the dead animals or packing house refuse to a specified
13 licensed rendering plant;

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

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

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** RCW 16.68.140 (Unlawful possession of
23 horse meat—Exceptions) and 2011 c 336 s 444 & 1949 c 100 s 15 are
24 each repealed.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act does not preempt or preclude any
26 county or municipality from enacting or enforcing more stringent
27 ordinances relating to the slaughter of horses and other equines for
28 human consumption or other aspects of animal welfare that pertain to
29 equines.

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

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