

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1915

To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 25, 2005

Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DEMINT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Virgie S. Arden Amer-
5 ican Horse Slaughter Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SHIPPING, TRANSPORTING, MOV-**
2 **ING, DELIVERING, RECEIVING, POSSESSING,**
3 **PURCHASING, SELLING, OR DONATION OF**
4 **HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES FOR SLAUGH-**
5 **TER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Horse Protection
7 Act (15 U.S.C. 1821) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
9 and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), and (6), respec-
10 tively;

11 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesi-
12 gnated by paragraph (1)) the following:

13 “(1) The term ‘human consumption’ means in-
14 gestion by people as a source of food.”; and

15 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as redesi-
16 gnated by paragraph (1)) the following:

17 “(4) The term ‘slaughter’ means the killing of
18 1 or more horses or other equines with the intent to
19 sell or trade the flesh for human consumption.”.

20 (b) FINDINGS.—Section 3 of the Horse Protection
21 Act (15 U.S.C. 1822) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
23 (5) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively;

24 (2) by adding before paragraph (6) (as redesi-
25 gnated by paragraph (1)) the following:

1 “(1) horses and other equines play a vital role
2 in the collective experience of the United States and
3 deserve protection and compassion;

4 “(2) horses and other equines are domestic ani-
5 mals that are used primarily for recreation, pleasure,
6 and sport;

7 “(3) unlike cows, pigs, and many other animals,
8 horses and other equines are not raised for the pur-
9 pose of being slaughtered for human consumption;

10 “(4) individuals selling horses or other equines
11 at auctions are seldom aware that the animals may
12 be bought for the purpose of being slaughtered for
13 human consumption;

14 “(5) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
15 Service of the Department of Agriculture has found
16 that horses and other equines cannot be safely and
17 humanely transported in double deck trailers;”;

18 (3) by striking paragraph (8) (as redesignated
19 by paragraph (1)) and inserting the following:

20 “(8) the movement, showing, exhibition, or sale
21 of sore horses in intrastate commerce, and the ship-
22 ping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving,
23 possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation in intra-
24 state commerce of horses and other equines to be

1 slaughtered for human consumption, adversely affect
2 and burden interstate and foreign commerce;”.

3 (c) PROHIBITION.—Section 5 of the Horse Protection
4 Act (15 U.S.C. 1824) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through
6 (11) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively;
7 and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph 7 the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(8) The shipping, transporting, moving, deliv-
11 ering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or
12 donation of any horse or other equine to be slaugh-
13 tered for human consumption.”.

14 (d) AUTHORITY TO DETAIN.—Section 6(e) of the
15 Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1825(e)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking the first sentence of paragraph
17 (1);

18 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2)
19 and as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

20 (3) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesi-
21 gnated by paragraph (2)) the following:

22 “(1) The Secretary may detain for examination, test-
23 ing, or the taking of evidence—

24 “(A) any horse at any horse show, horse exhi-
25 bition, or horse sale or auction that is sore or that

1 the Secretary has probable cause to believe is sore;
2 and

3 “(B) any horse or other equine that the Sec-
4 retary has probable cause to believe is being shipped,
5 transported, moved, delivered, received, possessed,
6 purchased, sold, or donated in violation of section
7 5(8).”.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
9 12 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1831) is
10 amended by striking “\$500,000” and inserting
11 “\$5,000,000”.

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