

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2622

To prohibit the interstate transport of horses for the purpose of slaughter or horse flesh intended for human consumption, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To prohibit the interstate transport of horses for the purpose of slaughter or horse flesh intended 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 “Helping Out to Rescue
5 and Save Equines Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERSTATE TRANSPORT OF HORSES FOR SLAUGH-**
7 **TER PROHIBITED.**

8 (a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any per-
9 son to willingly and knowingly transport or cause to be

1 transported between any place in a State and any place
2 outside of such State—

3 (1) any horse (other than a downed horse) for
4 the purpose of slaughtering the horse; or

5 (2) any horse flesh processed or intended to be
6 processed for human consumption.

7 (b) INSPECTIONS.—The Secretary shall make such
8 investigations or inspections as the Secretary deems nec-
9 essary to determine whether any person has violated or
10 is violating any provision of this section or any regulation
11 issued under this section.

12 (c) CONFISCATION.—The Secretary shall promulgate
13 regulations to permit inspectors to confiscate any horse
14 or horse flesh found to be in transport or to have been
15 transported in violation of subsection (a).

16 (d) PENALTIES.—

17 (1) ILLEGAL TRANSPORT.—Any person who is
18 found to have violated subsection (a) shall be fined
19 \$5,000. Such a fine shall be assessed per horse that
20 is transported in violation of subsection (a)(1) and
21 per property-carrying unit (as defined in section
22 31112 of title 49, United States Code) for a viola-
23 tion of subsection (a)(2) regardless of how many
24 State lines were crossed during that transport. In
25 addition to such fine, in the case of a violation of

1 subsection (a)(1), such person shall be fined an
2 amount determined by the Secretary to defray or
3 help defray the costs of confiscating, transporting,
4 boarding, and providing veterinary care to the horse
5 until it is placed in a rescue facility pursuant to sub-
6 section (e).

7 (2) INTERFERENCE WITH OFFICIALS.—Any
8 person who forcibly assaults, resists, opposes, im-
9 pedes, intimidates, or interferes with any person
10 while engaged in or on account of the performance
11 of official duties under this section shall be fined not
12 more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than
13 three years, or both. Whoever, in the commission of
14 such acts, uses a deadly or dangerous weapon shall
15 be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned not
16 more than ten years, or both. Whoever kills any per-
17 son while engaged in or on account of the perform-
18 ance of official duties under this section shall be
19 punished as provided under sections 1111 and 1114
20 of title 18, United States Code.

21 (e) PLACEMENT OF CONFISCATED HORSES.—After
22 confiscation of a live horse pursuant to subsection (c), the
23 Secretary shall donate the horse to a rescue facility that
24 is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the
25 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from tax

1 under section 501(a) of such Code. The Secretary shall
2 make reasonable efforts to place the horse in such a rescue
3 facility located within the State where the horse last re-
4 sided.

5 (f) GRANTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
7 grants to rescue facilities described in subsection (e)
8 that have given adequate assurances to the Sec-
9 retary that they are willing to accept horses donated
10 pursuant to that subsection.

11 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 There are authorized to be appropriated for the pur-
13 poses of this subsection amounts equal to amounts
14 collected under subsection (d).

15 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section,
16 the following definitions apply:

17 (1) DOWNED HORSE.—The term “downed
18 horse” means a horse that is unable to stand and
19 walk unassisted.

20 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the sev-
23 eral States, the District of Columbia, and any terri-
24 tory or possession of the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations
4 to carry out this Act, including regulations for enforce-
5 ment of and inspections under this Act. This Act shall
6 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act with-
7 out regard to whether such regulations have been issued.

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