



American Horse Council Washington Update

Slaughter Bills Introduced

Yesterday, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), along with Representatives Ed Whitfield (R-KY), Nick Rahall (D-WV), John Spratt (D-SC) and 58 co-sponsors reintroduced federal legislation to prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption (H.R. 503). Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and 12 other Senators introduced similar legislation in the Senate. "The Virgie S. Arden American Horse Slaughter Prevention," Act (S. 311) would prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption

H.R. 503 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Agriculture. S. 311 was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

The bill would amend the Horse Protection Act (HPA), which was enacted in 1970 to prohibit the showing, transport or sale of horses that have been subjected to any painful process to accentuate their gate. The Animal & Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture enforces the HPA.

The bill would prohibit the shipping, transporting, or sale of horses for slaughter for human consumption. Such activities would be a violation of the HPA and subject any person who knowingly violates the Act to penalties of up to \$3,000 and/or one year in jail for the first offense and up to \$5,000 and/or two years in jail for a second offense. An offender may also be subject to civil penalties of \$2,000 for each violation.

The bill authorizes \$5 million for enforcement.

Both bills are identical to legislation introduced last Congress. The House version passed last year, while the Senate version was never considered.

Wild Horse and Burro Slaughter Ban

Earlier this month, Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY) introduced H.R. 249, which would restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. This bill amends the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195).

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

For texts of the bills, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Please feel free to contact the American Horse Council if you have any questions on either bill.