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Legislative Document

No. 1286

H.P. 913

House of Representatives, April 2, 2013

**An Act To Protect Maine Communities by Prohibiting Horse
Slaughter for Human Consumption and the Transport of Horses for
Slaughter**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative KNIGHT of Livermore Falls.
Cosponsored by Representative DICKERSON of Rockland, Senator KATZ of Kennebec and Representatives: CASAVANT of Biddeford, ESPLING of New Gloucester, KENT of Woolwich, MacDONALD of Old Orchard Beach, SIROCKI of Scarborough, VOLK of Scarborough, WEAVER of York, Senator: JACKSON of Aroostook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §3967** is enacted to read:

3 **§3967. Equine slaughter for human consumption**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Horse" includes all members of the genus Equus, including horses, ponies,
7 donkeys, mules, asses and burros.

8 B. "Horseflesh" means the flesh of a dead horse and includes the animal's viscera,
9 skin, hair, hide, hooves and bones.

10 C. "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association or other
11 legal entity.

12 **2. Prohibition against horse slaughter.** A person may not slaughter or otherwise
13 cause or procure the death of, or have another person slaughter or otherwise cause or
14 procure the death of, a horse if that person knows or should know that any of the
15 horseflesh is intended for human consumption.

16 **3. Prohibition against possession of horse for slaughter.** A person may not sell,
17 barter, give away or purchase or offer to sell, barter or purchase or possess, transport,
18 deliver or receive a horse with the intent of slaughtering or otherwise causing or
19 procuring the death of, or having another person slaughter or otherwise cause or procure
20 the death of, the horse if that person knows or should know that any of the horseflesh is
21 intended for human consumption.

22 **4. Prohibition against export or import of horse for slaughter.** A person may not
23 import into or export from this State a live horse when that person knows or should know
24 that the horse is intended for slaughter for human consumption.

25 **5. Prohibition against sale, purchase, possession, import or export of horseflesh.**
26 A person may not sell, barter, give away or purchase or offer to sell, barter or purchase or
27 possess, transport, deliver, receive or import into or export from this State horseflesh if
28 that person knows or should know that any of the horseflesh is intended for human
29 consumption.

30 **6. Prohibition against construction or operation of horse slaughtering facility.**
31 A person may not construct or operate a facility if that person knows or should know that
32 the facility is used or will be used for the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

33 **7. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a Class C crime. A court
34 may also order any person convicted of violating this section to submit to a mental health
35 evaluation as determined by the court and undergo any recommended counseling or
36 treatment. In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person convicted under this
37 section may be barred from owning or possessing any animals, or living on the same
38 property with someone who owns or possesses animals, for a period of time considered

1 appropriate by the court and required to take humane education classes as ordered by the
2 court.

3 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2163**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 731, §19 and PL 2011, c.
4 657, Pt. W, §6, is repealed.

5 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2511, sub-§25**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 771, §1, is amended
6 to read:

7 **25. Livestock.** "Livestock" means cattle, domesticated deer, sheep, swine, goats,
8 domestic rabbits, ~~horses, mules, other equines~~ or other designated animals, whether live
9 or dead.

10 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2511, sub-§27**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 771, §1, is amended
11 to read:

12 **27. Meat.** "Meat" means the part of the muscle of cattle, domesticated deer, sheep,
13 swine, goats, ~~horses, mules, other equines~~ or other designated animals that is skeletal or
14 that is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart or esophagus, with or without the
15 accompanying and overlying fat, and the portions of bone, skin, sinew, nerve and blood
16 vessels that normally accompany the muscle tissue but does not include the muscle found
17 in the lips, snout or ears.

18 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2523, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 777, §1, is repealed.

19 SUMMARY

20 This bill prohibits the slaughter of horses for human consumption and:

21 1. Bans the possession, sale, purchase, transportation and import into or export out of
22 this State of a horse if the person knows or should know that the horse is meant to be
23 slaughtered for human consumption;

24 2. Bans the possession, sale, purchase, transportation, import into or export out of
25 this State of horseflesh if the person knows or should know that the horseflesh is for
26 human consumption;

27 3. Bans the construction or operation of a facility that the person knows or should
28 know is used or will be used for the slaughter of horses for human consumption; and

29 4. Repeals current law that allows horsemeat to be sold in this State as long as it is
30 plainly and conspicuously labeled as such.