

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to agriculture; creating ss. 570.96-
 3 570.962, F.S., relating to agritourism; authorizing the
 4 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assist
 5 specified entities in agritourism promotion and marketing
 6 initiatives; providing definitions; specifying the impact
 7 of agritourism participation on certain land
 8 classifications; requiring local governments and
 9 agricultural representatives to meet to discuss
 10 agritourism; prescribing duties of the Department of
 11 Agriculture and Consumer Services with respect to purchase
 12 and sale of horses; requiring rules; providing that
 13 provision does not apply to certain sales; providing an
 14 effective date.

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 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 Section 1. Sections 570.96, 570.961, and 570.962, Florida
 19 Statutes, are created to read:

20 570.96 Agritourism.--The Department of Agriculture and
 21 Consumer Services may provide marketing advice, technical
 22 expertise, promotional support, and product development related
 23 to agritourism to assist the following in their agritourism
 24 initiatives: the Florida Commission on Tourism; convention and
 25 visitor bureaus; tourist development councils; economic
 26 development organizations; and local governments. In carrying
 27 out this responsibility, the department shall focus its
 28 agritourism efforts on rural and urban communities.

29 570.961 Definitions.--As used in ss. 570.96-570.962, the
 30 term:

31 (1) "Agritourism activity" means any activity carried out
 32 on a farm or ranch or in a forest that allows members of the
 33 general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational
 34 purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming,
 35 ranching, historical, cultural, harvest-your-own, or nature-
 36 based activities and attractions. An activity is an agritourism
 37 activity whether or not the participant paid to participate in
 38 the activity.

39 (2) "Agritourism professional" means any person who is
 40 engaged in the business of providing one or more agritourism
 41 activities, whether or not for compensation.

42 (3) "Farm" means the land, buildings, support facilities,
 43 machinery, and other appurtenances used in the production of
 44 farm or aquaculture products, including land used to display
 45 plants, animals, farm products, or farm equipment to the public.

46 (4) "Farm operation" has the same meaning as defined in s.
 47 823.14.

48 570.962 Agritourism participation impact on land
 49 classification.--

50 (1) In order to promote and perpetuate agriculture
 51 throughout the state, farm operations are encouraged to engage
 52 in agritourism. The conduct of agritourism activity on a bona
 53 fide farm or on agricultural lands classified as such pursuant
 54 to s. 193.461 shall not limit, restrict, or divest the land of
 55 that classification.

56 (2) Local governments and agricultural representatives

57 shall meet for the purpose of discussing the benefits of
58 agritourism to local economies and opportunities for
59 cooperation, conflict resolution, regulatory streamlining, and
60 incentives.

61 Section 2. (1) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer
62 Services shall examine the conditions surrounding the sale and
63 purchase of horses and shall adopt rules to prevent unfair or
64 deceptive trade practices. The department's examination shall
65 include, but not be limited to, the following: the disclosure of
66 the legal owner and buyer of the horse and any dual agency to
67 the buyer and the seller; the disclosure of relevant medical
68 conditions, defects, or surgeries; the need for a written bill
69 of sale or similar documentation; and disclosure of alterations
70 to the appearance or performance of a horse prior to sale.

71 (2) This provision shall not apply to sales resulting from
72 claiming races at licensed pari-mutuel facilities.

73 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.