

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to equine activities; providing
 3 legislative intent; defining the term "equine"; requiring
 4 a child younger than a specified age to wear a helmet when
 5 riding an equine in certain locations; providing
 6 requirements for helmets; requiring a person renting or
 7 leasing an equine for riding by a child younger than a
 8 specified age to provide a helmet if the child does not
 9 have a helmet; prohibiting a parent or guardian of a child
 10 younger than a specified age from authorizing or
 11 permitting the child to engage in certain conduct;
 12 providing a penalty; providing exceptions; providing an
 13 effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to further
 18 promote the safety, health, and welfare of children younger than
 19 16 years of age who engage in equestrian activities and
 20 recreation in this state by enacting safety standards to
 21 minimize the number of serious or fatal head injuries sustained
 22 by children during equestrian activities and recreation.

23 Section 2. Helmet requirements; penalties.--

24 (1) As used in this section, the term "equine" has the
 25 same meaning as provided in s. 773.01, Florida Statutes.

26 (2) A child who is younger than 16 years of age must wear
 27 a helmet that meets the current applicable standards of the
 28 American Society of Testing and Materials for protective

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29 headgear used in horseback riding and that is properly fitted
30 and fastened securely upon the child's head by a strap when the
31 child is riding an equine upon:

32 (a) A public roadway, right-of-way, or an area immediately
33 adjacent to a public roadway or right-of-way;

34 (b) A public equestrian trail, public recreational trail,
35 public park or preserve, or public school site; or

36 (c) Any other publicly owned or controlled property.

37 (3) A trainer, instructor, supervisor, or other person may
38 not knowingly rent or lease an equine to be ridden by a child
39 younger than 16 years of age unless the child possesses a helmet
40 meeting the requirements of this section or the trainer,
41 instructor, supervisor, or other person renting or leasing the
42 equine supplies the child with a helmet meeting the standards of
43 this section.

44 (4) A parent or guardian of a child younger than 16 years
45 of age may not authorize or knowingly permit the child to
46 violate this section.

47 (5) A person who violates subsection (3) or subsection (4)
48 commits a noncriminal violation, punishable as provided in s.
49 775.083, Florida Statutes.

50 (6) This section does not apply to a child younger than 16
51 years of age who is riding an equine when the child is:

52 (a) Competing or performing during a show or event in
53 which he or she is registered as a competitor or participant;

54 (b) Riding on privately owned land; or

55 (c) Engaged in an agricultural practice or pursuit.

56 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2009.