

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senators Crist and Bullard

591-03786-10

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to the unlawful slaughter of horses;  
 3 providing a short title; amending s. 500.451, F.S.;  
 4 prohibiting specified acts relating to horsemeat for  
 5 human consumption; providing penalties; increasing the  
 6 classification of offenses relating to horsemeat for  
 7 human consumption; providing for suspension of  
 8 licenses of certain businesses for offenses relating  
 9 to horsemeat; providing mandatory minimum penalties;  
 10 amending s. 828.125, F.S.; revising provisions  
 11 prohibiting certain acts relating to horses to apply  
 12 to all horses regardless of breed; providing mandatory  
 13 minimum penalties; providing an effective date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Ivonne Rodriguez  
 18 Horse Protection Act."

19 Section 2. Section 500.451, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 20 read:

21 500.451 Horse meat; offenses ~~sale for human consumption.~~

22 (1) It is unlawful for any person to:

23 (a) Sell in the markets of this state horse meat for human  
 24 consumption unless the horse meat is clearly stamped, marked,  
 25 and described as horse meat for human consumption.

26 (b) Knowingly transport, distribute, sell, purchase, or  
 27 possess horsemeat for human consumption which is not clearly  
 28 stamped, marked, and described as horsemeat for human  
 29 consumption or horsemeat that is not acquired from a licensed

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30 slaughterhouse.

31 (2) A person that violates this section commits ~~is guilty~~  
32 ~~of a felony misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~second~~ degree, punishable  
33 as provided in s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, except  
34 that any person who commits a violation of this section shall be  
35 sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of \$3,500 and a minimum  
36 mandatory period of incarceration of 1 year.

37 (3) In addition to any penalties provided in subsection  
38 (2), any license of any restaurant, store, or other business may  
39 be suspended as provided in the applicable licensing law upon  
40 conviction of an owner or employee of that business for a  
41 violation of this section in connection with that business.

42 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 828.125, Florida  
43 Statutes, is amended to read:

44 828.125 Killing or aggravated abuse of ~~registered breed~~  
45 horses or cattle; offenses; penalties.—Any other provisions of  
46 this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding:

47 (1) Any person who willfully and unlawfully, by any means  
48 whatsoever, kills, maims, mutilates, or causes great bodily harm  
49 or permanent breeding disability to any animal of the genus  
50 Equus (horse) or any animal of any registered breed or  
51 recognized registered hybrid of the genus ~~Equus (horse) or genus~~  
52 ~~Bos (cattle) commits, or any recognized registered hybrid of the~~  
53 ~~specified genera, shall be guilty of a felony of the second~~  
54 ~~degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.~~  
55 ~~775.084, except that any person who commits a violation of this~~  
56 subsection shall be sentenced to a minimum mandatory fine of  
57 \$3,500 and a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 1  
58 year.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010.