

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

13  
 14   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16          Section 1. Section 500.451, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 17          to read:

18          500.451 Horse meat; offenses ~~sale for human consumption.~~

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

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

23          (b) Knowingly transport, distribute, sell, purchase, or  
 24          possess horsemeat for human consumption that is not clearly  
 25          stamped, marked, and described as horsemeat for human  
 26          consumption or horsemeat that is not acquired from a licensed  
 27          slaughterhouse.

28          (2) A person that violates this section commits ~~is guilty~~

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

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

39 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 828.125, Florida  
 40 Statutes, is amended to read:

41 828.125 Killing or aggravated abuse of ~~registered breed~~  
 42 horses or cattle; offenses; penalties.—Any other provisions of  
 43 this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding:

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

56 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010.