

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 2023

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2012

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably, and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 2023.

This bill, as amended, would prohibit a person from (1) knowingly slaughtering a horse for human consumption purposes; (2) knowingly selling, bartering, or attempting to sell or barter, at wholesale or retail, for human consumption purposes, the flesh of a horse, or any product made in whole or in part from the flesh of a horse; (3) knowingly transporting a horse for the purpose of slaughter for human consumption; or (4) knowingly transporting horsemeat, or any product made in whole or in part from the flesh of a horse, for the purpose of human consumption.

Any person violating the bill's prohibitions would be guilty of a disorderly persons offense, and would be subject to a minimum criminal penalty of \$100 and imprisonment of not less than 30 days. Such a person would additionally be liable to pay a civil fine of between \$500 and \$1,000 for each horse that has been slaughtered or transported for slaughter, and for each horse carcass or meat product that has been sold, bartered, offered for sale or barter, or transported for human consumption purposes in violation of the bill's provisions.

As amended by the committee, the bill would exempt from liability, any newspaper that accepts or publishes advertising for the sale of items that may fall within the scope of the bill's prohibition.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

1) establish as disorderly persons offenses, the act of transporting a horse for the purposes of slaughter for human consumption, and the act of transporting horsemeat for the purposes of human consumption; and

2) provide an express exemption from the bill's provisions for newspapers that publish advertising for items that may fall within the scope of the bill's prohibitions.

