

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-555)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1138, L.D. 1380, Bill, "AN ACT Concerning Equine Infectious Anemia."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1819, as enacted by PL 1973, c.74, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §1820 is enacted to read:

§1820. Equine Infectious anemia

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

- A. The "Coggins test" is the agar gel immuno diffusion test of equine infectious anemia.
- B. A "horse" is any member of the family equidae.
- C. To "quarantine" is to confine to a stable or pasture whose boundaries are no closer than 200 yards from a stable or pasture of horses which have not been tested by the Coggins test or which have been tested by the Coggins test with negative results.

2. Powers of commissioner. When it comes to the attention of the Commissioner of Agriculture that a horse has been tested by the Coggins test with positive results, he shall order that horse

quarantined until a veterinarian certifies that the horse is free from clinical symptoms of equine infectious anemia at the time of examination.

The commissioner shall require any horse exhibiting the symptoms of equine infectious anemia to submit to a Coggins test and nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from exercising the authority provided under chapter 303 in the case of an outbreak of the clinical form of Equine Infectious Anemia.

3. Freeze branding prohibited in certain cases. Any horse which has been tested by the Coggins test with positive results, but which a veterinarian has certified to be free from the clinical symptoms of equine infectious anemia, shall not be freeze branded or otherwise permanently identified by external disfigurement.

4. Screening test prohibited. The commissioner shall not use the Coggins test as a screening test on any horse or group of horses, except that the commissioner shall require a negative Coggins test, taken within 12 months, from all horses raced, exhibited or stabled on race tracks or fair grounds where other horses are being raced, exhibited or stabled.

The commissioner may exempt from the Coggins test requirements described in this subsection all horses appearing in private shows on grounds where no other horses are present, provided that consent to exempt such horses from the Coggins test requirements is obtained from the officials conducting the show and from the authorities responsible for the grounds where the show is being conducted.

5. Negative Coggins test required for horses entering Maine. The commissioner shall require a negative Coggins test from all horses entering Maine, such test to be taken within 6 months before the date of entry. The commissioner may require any horse entering Maine to submit to a Coggins test and shall require that any horse be quarantined until such test is completed.

Statement of Fact

This Amendment requires Coggins tests for all horses entering Maine and for all horses raced, exhibited or stabled at race tracks and fairgrounds, except that horses in private shows may be exempted if no other horses are on the grounds where the show is conducted and provided that consent is obtained from authorities responsible for the show and grounds. In addition, this Amendment clarifies language to require that a veterinarian certify that a horse is free from clinical symptoms of equine infectious anemia at the time he examines the horse; and prohibits permanent identification of positive reactor horses by external disfigurement, such as freeze branding, but allows permanent identification by such means as a lip tattoo.

Also, this Amendment clarifies the commissioner's powers in the case of an outbreak of the clinical form of equine infectious anemia and requires that any horse exhibiting symptoms of equine infectious anemia submit to a Coggins test.

reported by the Committee on Agriculture.

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