

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 1286

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H.P. 913

House of Representatives, April 2, 2013

**An Act To Protect Maine Communities by Prohibiting Horse  
Slaughter for Human Consumption and the Transport of Horses for  
Slaughter**

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Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative KNIGHT of Livermore Falls.  
Cosponsored by Representative DICKERSON of Rockland, Senator KATZ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: CASAVANT of Biddeford, ESPLING of New Gloucester, KENT of  
Woolwich, MacDONALD of Old Orchard Beach, SIROCKI of Scarborough, VOLK of  
Scarborough, WEAVER of York, Senator: JACKSON of Aroostook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §3967** is enacted to read:

3 **§3967. Equine slaughter for human consumption**

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

6 A. "Horse" includes all members of the genus Equus, including horses, ponies,  
7 donkeys, mules, asses and burros.

8 B. "Horseflesh" means the flesh of a dead horse and includes the animal's viscera,  
9 skin, hair, hide, hooves and bones.

10 C. "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association or other  
11 legal entity.

12 **2. Prohibition against horse slaughter.** A person may not slaughter or otherwise  
13 cause or procure the death of, or have another person slaughter or otherwise cause or  
14 procure the death of, a horse if that person knows or should know that any of the  
15 horseflesh is intended for human consumption.

16 **3. Prohibition against possession of horse for slaughter.** A person may not sell,  
17 barter, give away or purchase or offer to sell, barter or purchase or possess, transport,  
18 deliver or receive a horse with the intent of slaughtering or otherwise causing or  
19 procuring the death of, or having another person slaughter or otherwise cause or procure  
20 the death of, the horse if that person knows or should know that any of the horseflesh is  
21 intended for human consumption.

22 **4. Prohibition against export or import of horse for slaughter.** A person may not  
23 import into or export from this State a live horse when that person knows or should know  
24 that the horse is intended for slaughter for human consumption.

25 **5. Prohibition against sale, purchase, possession, import or export of horseflesh.**  
26 A person may not sell, barter, give away or purchase or offer to sell, barter or purchase or  
27 possess, transport, deliver, receive or import into or export from this State horseflesh if  
28 that person knows or should know that any of the horseflesh is intended for human  
29 consumption.

30 **6. Prohibition against construction or operation of horse slaughtering facility.**  
31 A person may not construct or operate a facility if that person knows or should know that  
32 the facility is used or will be used for the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

33 **7. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a Class C crime. A court  
34 may also order any person convicted of violating this section to submit to a mental health  
35 evaluation as determined by the court and undergo any recommended counseling or  
36 treatment. In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person convicted under this  
37 section may be barred from owning or possessing any animals, or living on the same  
38 property with someone who owns or possesses animals, for a period of time considered

1 appropriate by the court and required to take humane education classes as ordered by the  
2 court.

3 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2163**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 731, §19 and PL 2011, c.  
4 657, Pt. W, §6, is repealed.

5 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2511, sub-§25**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 771, §1, is amended  
6 to read:

7 **25. Livestock.** "Livestock" means cattle, domesticated deer, sheep, swine, goats,  
8 domestic rabbits, ~~horses, mules, other equines~~ or other designated animals, whether live  
9 or dead.

10 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2511, sub-§27**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 771, §1, is amended  
11 to read:

12 **27. Meat.** "Meat" means the part of the muscle of cattle, domesticated deer, sheep,  
13 swine, goats, ~~horses, mules, other equines~~ or other designated animals that is skeletal or  
14 that is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart or esophagus, with or without the  
15 accompanying and overlying fat, and the portions of bone, skin, sinew, nerve and blood  
16 vessels that normally accompany the muscle tissue but does not include the muscle found  
17 in the lips, snout or ears.

18 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2523, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 777, §1, is repealed.

## 19 SUMMARY

20 This bill prohibits the slaughter of horses for human consumption and:

21 1. Bans the possession, sale, purchase, transportation and import into or export out of  
22 this State of a horse if the person knows or should know that the horse is meant to be  
23 slaughtered for human consumption;

24 2. Bans the possession, sale, purchase, transportation, import into or export out of  
25 this State of horseflesh if the person knows or should know that the horseflesh is for  
26 human consumption;

27 3. Bans the construction or operation of a facility that the person knows or should  
28 know is used or will be used for the slaughter of horses for human consumption; and

29 4. Repeals current law that allows horsemeat to be sold in this State as long as it is  
30 plainly and conspicuously labeled as such.