

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/7/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 563

By: Senator Irvin

By: Representative Cavanaugh

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EQUINE WELFARE; TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION TO IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST AN EQUINE; TO ALLOW A BODY CONDITION SCORE TO BE USED TO DETERMINE IF ADEQUATE FOOD AND WATER HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO AN EQUINE UNDER THE OFFENSE OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION TO IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST AN EQUINE; AND TO ALLOW A BODY CONDITION SCORE TO BE USED FOR AN EQUINE UNDER THE OFFENSE OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 2, Chapter 33, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

2-33-117. Equine welfare – Penalties.

A person who commits the offense of cruelty to animals under § 5-62-103(a)(4) against an equine is subject to civil penalties imposed by the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation.



SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-62-103(a)(4), concerning the failure to supply an animal with sufficient food and water under the offense of cruelty to animals, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(A) Fails to supply an animal in his or her custody with a sufficient quantity of wholesome food and water~~+~~.

(B) To determine if adequate food and water have been supplied for an equine under subdivision (a)(4)(A) of this section, a body condition score conducted by a licensed veterinarian may be used;

/s/Irvin