

Date of Hearing: March 26, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Esmeralda Soria, Chair
AB 1142 (Hoover) – As Introduced February 20, 2025

SUBJECT: Horses: horse shows, competitions, and sales

SUMMARY: This bill would increase the public equine events and public horse sales applicable fee from \$4.99 for a one-day event to \$50 and if there are other fees that exceed \$19.99 would increase that amount to \$60.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides for the regulation of public equine events and public horse sales, as defined, by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture. (*Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) 24000*)
- 2) Makes the provisions regulating public equine events applicable to events that meet specified criteria, including that the entry fee for a single, one-day event exceeds \$4.99, and either no other fees are charged or other fees charged exceed \$19.99. (*FAC 24001*)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Current FAC Section 24001 establishes that public equine events where the entry fee for a single class does not exceed \$4.99 and other fees do not exceed \$19.99 are exempt from the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) regulations. The current fee exemptions were set at \$4.99 and \$19.99 in 1971. With over fifty years of inflation and rising prices, limiting entry fees to \$4.99 now hinders the ability of amateur horse shows to cover their costs. These smaller horse shows are of crucial importance to the development of equestrians and horses in our local communities. With such restrictive fee requirements to qualify for the exemption, amateur horse shows are unable to charge the entry fees needed to support themselves.

The California equine industry sponsored legislation in 1971 to prevent misuse of drugs and medications in equines (horses, ponies, mules and donkeys) in public shows and sales. The resulting law, is known as the California Equine Medication Rule. To enforce the law, the California Department of Food and Agriculture manages the EMMP. The EMMP monitors equines in public shows, competitions and sales through random collection of blood or urine for chemical analysis.

The intent of the EMMP is to ensure the integrity of public horse shows, competitions and sales through the control of performance and disposition enhancing drugs and permitting limited therapeutic use of drugs at an equine event.

An "event" is defined in FAC Section 24001 as any public horse show, competition, or sale in which money, goods, or services are exchanged for the right to compete for a single set of placings leading to points or awards at the show or competition, or to permit a horse to be consigned for sale.

The following events are exempt from EMMP regulations:

- 1) A rodeo-related competition, which is strictly a timed performance with no subjective judging, when held apart from a horse show. This includes barrel racing, team penning, ranch sorting, roping and gymkhana.
- 2) A sale of solely racehorses.
- 3) Competitions under the jurisdiction of the California Horse Racing Board.
- 4) A public horse show in which the class or event entry fee is less than \$4.99 per class and other fees do not exceed \$19.99 (Other fees include, but are not limited to, grounds fees, stall fees or office fees).

According to the author, this bill is a common-sense solution to a legislative need in our community. With the current fee exemption set in 1971, we are long overdue for new fee limits reflective of modern costs. Increasing the current entry fee limit that qualifies for the EMMP exemption provides the necessary flexibility for amateur horse shows to continue serving those in our community.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Assn.

Opposition

None on file.

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