STATE OF NEW YORK

2163

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 19, 2023

Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, PALUMBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to prohibiting the slaughtering of horses for human consumption

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 385 to read as follows:

§ 385. Prohibition of slaughtering horses for human consumption. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to slaughter or have another person slaughter a horse where such person knows or should know that any part of such horse will be used for human consumption.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, to import into or export from the state, to sell, buy, give away, hold, or accept any horse with the intent of killing, or having another kill, such horse, if such person knows or should have known that any part of such horse will be used for human consumption.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell at retail, barter, offer to sell at retail or barter, give away, or purchase at retail horseflesh, if such person knows or should know that any of the horseflesh will be used for human consumption.

4. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess horseflesh with the intent to sell such horseflesh at retail for the purpose of human consumption.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to import into or export from this state, live horses where such person knows or should know that such horse is intended for slaughter for human consumption.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to import into or export from this state, horseflesh where such person knows or should know that such horseflesh is intended for human consumption.

7. As used in this section, the term "horse" includes all members of the equine family, including horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, asses and burros; and the term "horseflesh" means the flesh of a dead horse, including the animal's viscera, skin, hair, hide, hooves, and bones; the term "person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association or other legal entity.

8. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both. In lieu of criminal prosecution, a violation of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars for an individual and up to five thousand dollars for a corporation for the first violation. Any subsequent violation shall be punishable by a civil penalty of up to twenty-five thousand dollars.

9. Any civil penalties collected pursuant to this section of law shall be payable to the animal population control fund established pursuant to section ninety-seven-xx of the state finance law.

10. Any owner or trainer stabled at a New York racing association track found to have knowingly sold a horse for slaughter will have his or her stalls permanently revoked from all New York racing association tracks.

11. The provisions of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other laws protecting animal welfare. This section may not be construed to limit any state law or rules protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent a local governing body from adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations.

12. If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitutional, that invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this section that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.