
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6694

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Agricultural Trade & Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Morton, A. Anderson and Rasmussen)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to microchipping of equine; amending RCW 16.57.010;
2 adding new sections to chapter 16.57 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.57.010 and 1993 c 105 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 For the purpose of this chapter:

7 (1) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state
8 of Washington.

9 (2) "Director" means the director of the department or a duly
10 appointed representative.

11 (3) "Person" means a natural person, individual, firm, partnership,
12 corporation, company, society, and association, and every officer,
13 agent or employee thereof. This term shall import either the singular
14 or the plural as the case may be.

15 (4) "Livestock" includes, but is not limited to, horses, mules,
16 cattle, sheep, swine, goats, poultry and rabbits.

17 (5) "Brand" means a permanent fire brand or any artificial mark,
18 other than an individual identification symbol, approved by the
19 director to be used in conjunction with a brand or by itself.

1 (6) "Production record brand" means a number brand which shall be
2 used for production identification purposes only.

3 (7) "Brand inspection" means the examination of livestock or
4 livestock hides for brands or any means of identifying livestock or
5 livestock hides and/or the application of any artificial identification
6 such as back tags or ear clips necessary to preserve the identity of
7 the livestock or livestock hides examined.

8 (8) "Individual identification symbol" means a permanent mark
9 placed on a horse for the purpose of individually identifying and
10 registering the horse and which has been approved for use as such by
11 the director.

12 (9) "Registering agency" means any person issuing an individual
13 identification symbol for the purpose of individually identifying and
14 registering a horse.

15 (10) "Poultry" means chickens, turkeys, ratites, and other
16 domesticated fowl.

17 (11) "Ratite" means, but is not limited to, ostrich, emu, rhea, or
18 other flightless bird used for human consumption, whether live or
19 slaughtered.

20 (12) "Ratite farming" means breeding, raising, and rearing of an
21 ostrich, emu, or rhea in captivity or an enclosure.

22 (13) "Microchipping" means the implantation of an identification
23 microchip or similar electronic identification device to establish the
24 identity of an individual animal:

25 (a) In the pipping muscle of a chick ratite or the implantation of
26 a microchip in the tail muscle of an otherwise unidentified adult
27 ratite;

28 (b) In the nuchal ligament of a horse unless otherwise specified by
29 rule of the director; and

30 (c) In locations of other livestock species as specified by rule of
31 the director when requested by an association of producers of that
32 species of livestock.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 16.57 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 A person who removes or causes to be removed a microchip implanted
36 in a horse, or who removes or causes to be removed a microchip from one
37 horse and implants or causes it to be implanted in another horse, with

1 the intent to defraud a subsequent purchaser, is guilty of a gross
2 misdemeanor.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 16.57 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department has the authority to conduct an investigation of an
6 incident where scars or other marks indicate that a microchip has been
7 removed from a horse.

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