

HOUSE BILL 559

Usurps Local Control by prohibiting counties and municipalities from banning animal events that are inherently cruel such as hog-dog contests, horse tripping, bloodless bullfights or any animal event regardless of the potential cruelty inflicted upon the animals.



Usurps Local Control by prohibiting counties and municipalities from banning animal events that pose a grave risk to public health or public safety.

Prohibits all regulations on working animals that are enacted to protect the health and welfare of the animals if the industry alleges that such regulations impose an “undue financial hardship” on their business.

This is critical since the carriage horse industry contends that all current regulations amount to a ban and this is their rationale for not complying with existing regulations in the City of St. Louis.

Definition of working animal is so broad that it includes any animal performing a function in commerce, such as dogs used for the breeding of puppies and farm animals producing eggs, milk, and meat for sale in commerce.

Eliminates zoning ordinances on dog breeding, farm animals, and exotic animals because HB 559 does not allow any prohibition on a working animal and does not allow for any regulation that might “effectively bans” or imposes an “undue financial hardship” on their business.

Any animal that provides a function in commerce, provides entertainment or provides education is also considered to be a working animal under HB 559 thus **nullifying any ordinances restricting the number of dogs or cats to prevent hoarding and nullifies ordinances restricting ownership of an exotic or dangerous animal.**

HB 559 prohibits counties from enacting ordinances on farm animals used for the production of eggs, milk, or meat for commercial sale. **A factory farm would merely have to allege that such county or municipal ordinances imposes a financial hardship on their business and they could establish operations in any county in the state.** Currently cruel factory farms cannot operate in 20 counties in Missouri because of local health ordinances. These would be nullified by HB 559.