

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S4/7/25

95th General Assembly

## A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

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