



The Safeguard American Food Exports Act of 2015

Introduction

Investigations in the European Union several years ago found that horse meat had been mixed with beef in food. This prompted concerns about the misleading sales of beef and concerns about the introduction into the food supply of medications and drugs that may have been in the horsemeat.

These incidents have changed the focus of legislation introduced in Congress to prohibit the sale of horses or horsemeat for human consumption. While bills had been introduced in the last several Congresses to prohibit the slaughter of horses for food, more recent bills would cited health concerns as the rationale for legislation dealing with the slaughter of horses for food.

Legislation

The Safeguard American Food Exports Act of 2015 (H.R. 1942) has been introduced in this Congress by Representatives Frank Guinta (R-NH), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Vern Buchanan (R-FL). Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) has introduced the Senate version of the bill (S.1214). The bill is similar to legislation introduced in past Congresses in that it would in effect prohibit the slaughter of horses in the U.S. and the export of horses for slaughter, such as to Canada or Mexico.

The bill provides that horses are not raised for human consumption and that they are frequently treated with drugs that pose a serious threat to human health if eaten. The bill would make it illegal under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to knowingly sell or transport horses or parts of horses in interstate or foreign commerce for purposes of human consumption.

Congressional Action

The House bill was referred to two committees, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Agriculture.

The Senate bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

AHC Position

The AHC is neutral on this legislation.