
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Melissa Hurtado, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1142	Hearing Date:	7/1/25
Author:	Hoover		
Version:	6/24/25 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Reichel Everhart		

Subject: Horses: horse shows, competitions, and sales

SUMMARY:

This bill increases specified fee thresholds, for an entry fee to a public equine event, by the California Department of Food and Agriculture from \$4.99 to \$40.00 and from \$19.99 to \$60.00 if other fees are involved.

BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:

Existing law:

- 1) Defines “event” to mean a public equine event or public horse sale that is held in the state, including a cutting horse competition, an endurance riding competition, a competitive trail competition, or any other competition as determined by the department by regulation.¹
- 2) Regulates public equine events and horse sales through the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).²
- 3) Establishes the California Equine Medication Rule³: Food and Agricultural Code section 24000 establishes a framework to ensure the integrity of public equine events and public horse sales through the control of performance enhancing substances while limiting permitted therapeutic usage at horse shows and competitions. Using this framework, CDFA has established regulations to create the California Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP)⁴ which conducts random drug tests.
- 4) States that an equine event is subject to Chapter 8, Drugging of Horses, shall meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Money, goods, or services are exchanged for the right to compete.

¹ Food and Agricultural Code Section 24001(a)

² Food and Agricultural Code Section 24000

³ Food and Agricultural Code Section 24000

⁴ Food and Agricultural Code Section 24013 and 3 CCRsections 1280-1280.11

- b. Individuals compete for a single set of placings, points, or awards at the equine event.
 - c. For one-day events, the entry fee to enter a single class exceeds \$4.99, and either no other fees are charged or other fees charged exceed \$19.99. Fees charged may include ground fees, stall fees, or any other fees composed of money, goods, or services assessed to permit competitors to enter into the event.⁵
- 5) Authorizes CDFA to collect a fee of \$14 for each equine being entered into a public show or being consigned to a public sale. The money goes towards funding the EMMP.
- 6) Provides for exemptions to the EMMP for:
- a. A rodeo-related competition, which is strictly a timed performance with no subjective judging, when held apart from a horse show.
 - b. A sale of solely racehorses.
 - c. Competitions under the jurisdiction of the California Horse Racing Board.
 - d. A public horse show in which the class or event entry fee is \$4.99 or less per class and other fees do not exceed \$19.99.⁶

PROPOSED LAW:

This bill:

- 1) Changes the fee threshold for a one-day event entry fee for a single class from \$4.99 to \$40, and the additional fee threshold, from \$19.99 to \$60.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

“AB 1142 is a common-sense solution to a legislative need in my local community and our state. With the current fee exemption set in 1971, we are long overdue for updated fee limits that reflect modern costs. Increasing the current fee limits that qualify for the Equine Medication Monitoring Program exemption provides the necessary flexibility for amateur horse shows to continue serving those in our community.”

The Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association writes in support of the bill stating:

“There was no provision for inflation written into the original bill to allow for increases to the maximum exemption fees of \$4.99 (entry fee) and \$19.99 (total of other fees). However, the drug assessment fee,

⁵ Food and Agricultural Code Section 24001 (b)(3)

⁶ https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/EMMP/

which was outboard from the bill, has increased over the past 50 years to accommodate for inflation. Cost to provide equine experiences have increased significantly since 1971. Facility rent, insurance, cost of judges, awards, are just a few of the expenses incurred when putting on horseshow. The groups listed above are just a few of many that are finding it difficult to provide equine grassroot experiences without financial consequences.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

None received.

COMMENTS:

The Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) through CDFA is funded by collecting \$14 per horse at CDFA-monitored events. This fee is used for drug testing of horses at most public horse events in California. By changing the threshold of the entry fee from \$4.99 to \$40, more shows will be exempt from having to pay the \$14 EMMP fee.

The analysis from the Assembly Committee on Appropriations stated that “According to CDFA, based on fiscal year 2023-24 revenues, raising the fee threshold would result in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$102,000 (special fund). This represents about 12% of the total program revenue. The department’s estimate assumes that approximately 250 events, involving a total of 8,600 horses, would be exempt from paying fees, as these events would no longer meet the definition of an “event” under the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP).”⁷

PRIOR ACTIONS:

Assembly Floor:	70 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

SUPPORT:

Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association

OPPOSITION:

⁷ Assembly Budget Committee on Appropriations analysis of AB 1142

None received

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