

ASSEMBLY, No. 2240

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires use of protective headgear when horseback riding on State-owned lands.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning horseback riding on State-owned lands and
2 supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. Any person horseback riding on State-owned lands shall
8 wear protective headgear which shall be properly fitted with the
9 attached harness properly secured. The headgear shall meet or
10 exceed the headgear standards established for equestrian use by the
11 American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and have
12 either a Safety Equipment Institute tag certifying conformity with
13 the ASTM standards or a tag, label, or other indication that the
14 headgear conforms with headgear safety standards for equestrian
15 use comparable to those established by the ASTM.

16 b. A person found to have violated this section shall be subject
17 to a fine up to \$50 for a first offense and up to \$200 for any
18 subsequent offense. All monies collected pursuant to this section
19 shall be deposited in the "New Jersey Brain Injury Research Fund,"
20 established pursuant to section 9 of P.L.2003, c.200 (C.52:9EE-9),
21 and shall be used for the purpose of making grants for brain injury
22 research projects at qualified research institutions approved by the
23 New Jersey State Commission on Brain Injury Research.

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25 2. At each entrance to State-owned lands on which members of
26 the public may engage in equestrian activity, the Department of
27 Environmental Protection shall erect a clear and conspicuous sign
28 advising of the provisions of section 1 of this act.

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30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill would require any person horseback riding on State-
36 owned lands to wear properly-fitted protective headgear with the
37 attached harness properly secured. The headgear would be required
38 to meet or exceed the headgear standards established for equestrian
39 use by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM),
40 and have either a Safety Equipment Institute tag certifying
41 conformity with the ASTM standards or a tag, label, or other
42 indicator that the headgear conforms with headgear safety standards
43 for equestrian use comparable to those established by the ASTM.

44 The bill would also require the Department of Environmental
45 Protection to erect a sign, notifying the public of the provisions of
46 this bill, at each entrance to State-owned lands on which members
47 of the public may engage in equestrian activity.

1 A person found to have violated this requirement would be
2 subject to a fine up to \$50 for a first offense and up to \$200 for any
3 subsequent offense. All penalties collected would be deposited in
4 the "New Jersey Brain Injury Research Fund," and be used for the
5 purpose of making grants for brain injury research projects at
6 qualified research institutions approved by the New Jersey State
7 Commission on Brain Injury Research
8 Studies have shown that horseback riding accounts for more
9 severe head injuries than any other sport. Head injuries are
10 associated with approximately 60 percent of all equestrian deaths
11 and 18 percent of equestrian injuries. Aside from death, head injury
12 survivors may suffer personality changes, intellectual and memory
13 impairment, or epilepsy. Treatment for an acute head injury may
14 cost up to \$25,000 per day, and over \$3 million in a lifetime.
15 Despite these risks, only 20 percent of equestrians regularly wear
16 protective headgear while horseback riding. This bill seeks to
17 encourage the use of a helmet while horseback riding in order to
18 reduce the prevalence of head injury in equestrian sports and to
19 promote public health and safety.