

June 13, 2023

Dear Horse Riding Advocates,

AB233, the horse poop bill, is still moving forward in the California capital. It has passed the Assembly and is now scheduled for a hearing at the Senate Committee on Government and Finance. The hearing is set for June 21, 2023.

The bill that is sponsored by several bike riding associations has been amended once again and now states:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 6.4 (commencing with Section 51045) is added to Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5 of the Government Code, to read:

**CHAPTER 6.4. Disposal of ~~Horse~~ *Animal* Excrement
51045.**

(a) Notwithstanding ~~Section 21050 of the Vehicle Code~~ or any other law, a local agency may ~~require~~ adopt an ordinance requiring the rider owner of, or person otherwise responsible for, ~~a horse~~ an animal to collect and dispose of any ~~horse~~ animal excrement deposited by that ~~horse~~ animal on a street or sidewalk. public property.

(b) Under the general police powers afforded to local governments under Section 7 of Article XI of the California Constitution, this section is declaratory of existing law.

This means that any location that is considered public property within a local jurisdiction (City, County, Services District, etc.) could be subject to the requirement for horse riders to get off their horse and clean up any poop that the horse may leave behind.

If we do not defeat this bill at the committee level, the battle will be harder when the bill reaches the Senate floor. If it becomes law and you live in an area with a strong local bike riding group, it is likely this requirement will affect you.

We need to band together now in a statewide effort to stop this foolishness from moving forward. This bill creates an impossible requirement for horse riders that cannot be allowed to become law. It only takes a moment to make your voice heard on this issue.

- The best option is to submit a letter by June 15 at noon.
 - Submit a short letter to the Senate Committee on Government and Finance. Use the link below to submit your letter. The letter can be short and simple. It just needs to state that you are opposed to AB 233 (Wilson) and a few reasons why you are opposed. This can include:
 - It is not healthy for the horse's back to mount/dismount from the ground.
 - Horse riders cannot carry several pounds of horse poop (excrement) while riding.

- Horse poop is safe for the environment and many local agencies use horse poop in fertilizer for their landscaping efforts.
- The bill is anti-horse and will negatively affect the multi-billion dollar horse riding industry in California.

The letter must be submitted by NOON on June 21, 2023. It only takes a few minutes to register for an account and submit your letter.

<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

- If you are not able to submit a letter, call the Senate Government and Finance Committee members and tell them you are opposed to the bill. This only takes a few minutes.
 - Senator Caballero (Chair): 916-651-4014
 - Senator Seyarto (Vice Chair): 916-651-4032
 - Senator Blakespear: 916-651-4038
 - Senator Dahle: 916-651-4001
 - Senator Durazo: 916-651-4026
 - Senator Glazer: 916-651-4007
 - Senator Skinner: 916-651-4009
 - Senator Weiner: 916-651-4011
- If you are able to participate in the hearing, you can attend in person in Sacramento on Thursday, June 21, at 9:00 a.m. Be sure to say you are opposed to the bill.
- If you cannot go to Sacramento, you can still participate by calling in to the hearing. Be sure to say you are opposed to the bill. The committee staff will provide the call information early next week at this link:

<https://sgf.senate.ca.gov/committeehome>

One last thing – please share this with your horse network and encourage all of your friends/family to help defeat the bill. It is really important that we defeat this bill now so that horse riding in public places is not stopped forever simply because our horses poo.

Happy Trails,
Karen Jones and Kiwi