

Connecticut Horse Council Legislative Update 3/15/12

H.B. No. 5262 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS AND AREAS FOR EQUINE USE.

Purpose: To preserve certain areas as horse trails.

NOTE: CHC Supports HB 5262: This bill would ensure that equestrian access to multi-use trails in Connecticut is protected. This bill had a public hearing on March 2nd and was voted out of committee with some language changes.

SB 262 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF FARM MACHINERY AND LIVESTOCK AND THE TRANSFER OF LAND CLASSIFIED AS FARM LAND, OPEN SPACE LAND, FOREST LAND AND MARITIME HERITAGE LAND.

Purpose: To make all horses and ponies exempt from property taxation; to increase the property tax exemption for farm machinery; to amend the date on which a qualified foresters report must be submitted; to require property owners to provide notice of an excepted transfer of land classified as farm land, open space land, forest land or maritime heritage land, and to make other changes concerning the assessment of such classified land.

NOTE: CHC supports SB 262: the current property tax on horses is arbitrary and we feel it should be eliminated.

This bill had a public hearing on March 2nd and was voted out of committee with some language changes.

SB 111 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR CAUSING HARM TO A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY.

Purpose: To protect vulnerable users of a public way by enhancing penalties for operators of motor vehicles whose careless driving causes serious physical injury or death to a pedestrian, bicyclist or other vulnerable user of a public way.

NOTE: CHC Supports this legislation: It enhances penalties for operators of motor vehicles whose reckless actions cause serious harm or injury to bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians when they are on roads or public ways.

This bill had a public hearing on Feb 22nd and was voted out of committee with some language changes.

Please contact your own legislators to ask that they support and/or cosponsor HB 5262, SB262 and SB111. When contacting legislators remember to be respectful and polite, and use the bill number and title. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact CHC at president@cthorsecouncil.org.

The Connecticut Horse Council is an all-volunteer, not for profit organization dedicated to serving all aspects of the horse industry in Connecticut. For more information, please visit our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org