
Riding Stables Chapter

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S.B. 271 Jackson (Dunnam)

Summary

The Legislature created the Riding Stables Chapter (the Chapter) in 1989 to promote humane treatment and conditions for horses the public uses in recreational riding and carriage stables. Initially, the Texas Department of Health administered the Chapter, but in 2001, the Legislature transferred the program to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). No staff positions were allotted for the program, however the agency was authorized to retain approximately \$30,000 per year in stable licensing fees. The program's major functions include:

- registration of all stables renting one or more equines for riding or carriage purposes;
- biennial inspections of the condition of facilities and the health of equines; and
- denial, revocation, or suspension of certificates of registration if TAHC finds violations of care and treatment standards.

Senate Bill 271 contains the Sunset Commission's recommendation to abolish the Riding Stables Chapter, as no significant problems had been identified or addressed in 13 years of regulatory oversight. The 78th Legislature adopted this recommendation without modifications. The major provision of S.B. 271 is listed below, and a more detailed discussion follows.

Sunset Provision

1. Repeal the Riding Stables Chapter, Effective September 1, 2003.

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This provision will end the state regulation of riding stables in Texas on September 1, 2003. The Texas Animal Health Commission will continue to protect and promote health among Texas' animal populations but will no longer specifically oversee the care and treatment of recreational horses housed in riding stables.

Fiscal Implication Summary

This legislation will result in a savings of approximately \$5,000 per year. This amount is based upon the difference between the agency's actual expenditures for the program and the amount collected from stable licensing fees.

Fiscal Year	Savings to the General Revenue Fund
2004	\$5,000
2005	\$5,000
2006	\$5,000
2007	\$5,000
2008	\$5,000