A Bill for an Act relating to Humane Use of Horses in Victorian Racing Bill 2020.

To be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

Humane Use of Horses in Victorian Racing Bill 2020

A Bill for an Act to establish a horse racing industry control board within the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This Board will oversee the use of all horses within the horse racing industry in Victoria and provide recommendations to ensure all practices are safe and humane. In addition, this Bill seeks to develop restrictions to be placed on both individuals and corporations, to prevent unnecessary harm to horses. Further restrictions will be placed on the training of immature horses, the overproduction of racehorses, the prohibition of hurdle and steeplechase racing, the doping of racehorses and the slaughter of retired horses.

This Bill was written with the aim of protecting horses involved in the racing industry. The Bill aims to improve the welfare of each horse, creating a more ethical and sustainable environment for the horses.

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1   Purpose
The main purposes of this Act are—
(a)   to establish a safety board around horse racing;
(b)   to restrict the training and breeding of horses;
(c)   to ban steeple chasing and hurdles racing.

Clause 2   Commencement
This Bill shall commence three years after receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3   Definitions
In this Bill, we define the following to mean—
(a)   ***A horse's age*** means the age that coincides with racing Victoria, as all racehorse's birthdays are on August 1st;
(b)   ***The Department*** shall mean the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Victoria;
(c)   ***The Board*** shall mean the Horse Race Industry Control Board.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4   Establishment of the horse race industry control board
4.1   The Horse Race Industry Control Board shall be established to be the regulating body that enforces and monitors regulations.
4.2   The Horse Racing Industry Control Board shall be comprised of horse veterinarians, animal ethics specialists, and safe practice with racehorse specialists.

Clause 5   Prohibition of steeplechasing and hurdle racing
5.1   Steeplechasing and hurdle racing shall be prohibited in Victoria.
5.2   Any persons who organises or participates in a steeple or hurdle race shall be penalised as follows—
(a)   up to 250 penalty units if the offence is committed by a corporation;
(b)   up to 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both, in the case of an individual.

Clause 6   Horse race breeding restrictions

6.1 Breeders are restricted to birthing a maximum of 50 foals in a calendar year.

6.2 Failure to adhere to the breeding restrictions shall result in the fining of 10 penalty units for every foal that is bred over the limit.

6.3 The Horse Race Industry Control Board has the power to issue more penalty units as deemed necessary.

Clause 7 **Prohibiting the training of immature horses**

7.1 Horses under the age of six are prohibited from participating in any and all forms of racing.

7.2 Failure to comply will result in a fine of 250 penalty units in the case of a corporation, or 50 penalty units and/or imprisonment for 6 months in the case of an individual.

Clause 8 **Harsher punishments for doping**

8.1 The maximum penalty for doping shall be 700 penalty units for a corporation at the discretion of the Board.

8.2 Doping shall result in a 60-month ban from all forms of horse racing for those involved.

Clause 9 **The retirement of horses**

9.1 Horses must undergo a health check before each racing season.

9.2 If a horse does not pass the health check the Board shall decide if the horse is immediately retired or placed on mandatory rest from racing in order to recover fully.

9.3 Retirement facilities shall be established for retired horses by the Board in collaboration with Horse Racing Victoria and the Department.