



***ARIZONA STATE SENATE***  
***Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session***

**AMENDED**

**FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2340**

**wild horses; management; prohibition**

**Purpose**

Prohibits the harassment, capture, slaughter and other like actions against the Salt River wild horse herd.

**Background**

Current law defines a stray animal as livestock, bison or raptures whose owner is unknown or cannot be located, or whose owner is known but allows the animal to roam at large (A.R.S. § 3-1401). Current law also outlines procedures to be followed when a person or livestock officer finds a stray animal (A.R.S. § 3-1402). Furthermore, livestock officers are required to seize animals whose ownership is questionable, given certain requirements (A.R.S. § 3-1371).

The exact number of Salt River horses residing in Tonto National Forest is currently unknown.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

**Provisions**

1. Prohibits a person from engaging in actions that would harass, harm or attempt to domesticate the Salt River wild horse herd without authorization from the United States Forest Service or the County Sheriff.
2. States that a person found in violation of the above provision is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
3. Allows public or private officials to address incidents that compromise the safety of either the Salt River wild horse herd or the public, provided that they receive authorization from the United States Forest Service or the County Sheriff.
4. Specifies that wild Salt River horses are not stray animals as defined in statute, and are not subject to livestock seizure and holding as defined in statute.

5. States that the intentional release of a domesticated horse into the wild is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
6. Specifies that wild Salt River horses include those that have historically inhabited the Tonto National Forest and do not have an ownership brand.
7. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Strikes the legislative findings clause from the bill.

House Action

FSR            2/17/16    DPA    5-2-0-1  
3<sup>rd</sup> Read       2/25/16                38-22-0

Senate Action

FMFR           3/8/16    DPA    7-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

March 9, 2016

FB/ZD/rf