

To Whom It May Concern:

Testimony Regarding HB 2645:

This bill would treat our dog training facilities the same as horse training facilities for purposes of the building code only – not land use law.

Section 1 adds a definition of “dog training facility” to ORS 455.315.

This statute contains an exemption from the state commercial building code for buildings used as “equine training facilities.” The exemption only applies if the farm building is:

- A. Located on a farm;
- B. Occupied by 10 or fewer people at all times;
- C. Not a building regulated by the State Fire Marshal; and
- D. Not within a floodplain.

If all of these criteria are met, then a farm building used to train horses is not subject to the commercial building code. If the farm is within an incorporated city, which is unlikely, the city can disregard the statute and apply building code regulations.

Unfortunately, the statutory exemption applies specifically to “equines” and not to dogs. Consequently, a farm building used by a farmer to train horses is exempt, but that same building used in the exact same manner by the exact same people at the exact same time to train dogs is not exempt. As long as all of the other sideboards remain the same for horses and dogs, so that one type of training is not favored over the other, there is no reason to hold dog trainers to a different standard than horse trainers for purposes of the commercial building code. Section 1 of this bill fixes that, so that dog training facilities are treated the same as horse training facilities for building code purposes. It does nothing more.

Our dogs are well mannered and well trained and are not a threat to horses or horse training. On many occasions we have worked in conjunction with horse trainers with no issue. These dogs do not live at these facilities full time. They come in for short training sessions and then leave.

As the owner of K-9 Sports, running many canine sport events each year, it is imperative that our dogs be well mannered and not a threat to neighbors of facilities we rent. We require ALL exhibitors to keep their dogs on leash and under control when not competing or training. We also have disciplinary actions in place should anyone break the regulations . I’ve run hundreds of events over the past 14 years with no threats to neighbors or their livestock.

Unlike our competitions, what this Bill is specifically targeting is our training facilities. Training sessions typically last for 1 hr with a maximum of 6 dogs per session. Many times there are actually fewer dogs in the class. Again, our dogs are well mannered and well trained. They are not allowed to run off leash in areas where horses or livestock are housed. These training sessions are very controlled and supervised. Our dogs are not a threat to horses or livestock.

Thank you for your time.

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