

Florida

Department of Education

Bill Number: House Bill 169

Bill Title: Equine Activities

Bill Sponsor: Representative Abruzzo

Effective Date: October 1, 2009

DOE Contact: Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools, (850) 245-0509

Executive Summary:

The bill:

- Entitles s. 773.06, F.S., as “Nicole’s Law.”
- Enacts safety standards to minimize the number of serious to fatal head injuries sustained by children during equestrian activities and recreation.
- Cites the definition of the term “equine” as used in s. 773.01, F.S.,
- Requires that a child younger than 16 wear a helmet that meets the standards of the American Society of Testing and Materials for protective headgear used in horseback riding and that the headgear is secured with a strap when a child is riding an equine upon the following places:
 - A public roadway or right-of-way,
 - A public equestrian trail, public recreational trail, public park or preserve, or public school,
 - Any other publically owned or controlled property.
- Requires that a trainer not knowingly rent or lease an equine to a child younger than 16 unless the child has a helmet or a helmet is provided.
- States that a parent or guardian may not authorize a child to violate this act.
- States that a person who violates this act commits a noncriminal violation, punishable by s. 775.083, F.S.
- States that this section does not apply to a child younger than 16 practicing for, riding to or from, or competing in shows or events, including but not limited to, rodeos or parades, riding on private owned land or engaged in agricultural pursuit or practice.
- Provides an effective date.

General Implementation Timeline:

October 1, 2009 The act becomes effective.