

**From:** John Peiffer  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 07, 2013 3:53 PM  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 835

In Section 2 of the proposed bill, there is language that appears to be meant for identifying specific behavior that is to be considered inappropriate and contributing to the mistreatment or injury to an equine. However, it is clear that the author(s) and/or proponent(s) don't understand how roping the leg of a horse is a safe and appropriate method in colt starting used in gentling a wild or green horse to lasso the hind leg in order to keep the horse from kicking or bucking. This is done in a manner that is intended to reduce the stress for the horse and help ensure its safety in the gentling process. It can be accomplished by the trainer/wrangler roping the horse either from the ground or while working from another horse. The latter has the benefit of using an experienced horse which will help to calm the colt and also keeping everyone involved safe. Great care is involved in making sure that the rope does not chafe or injure the horse. It only requires a small amount of tension that keeps the colt from winding up for another kick and they calm down once they realize that they are unable to kick with the hind leg captured in that manner. It often takes very little time for them to adjust. I've watched Buck Brannaman, Bryan Neubert, and others do this very effectively. We also used it ourselves in gentling our three wild mustangs that we adopted from the BLM. It would be irresponsible to allow a well-intended new legal restriction to be mis-interpreted and/or mis-applied when this technique is designed to provide a better outcome for the horse and is in no way meant to inflict any degree of harm. In the hands of a skilled trainer, this desensitization method is quicker and gentler than some proponents may ever realize. However, I can understand that to the uninformed it may appear otherwise. For those who feel that it should be banned nonetheless, I'd invite them to stand within striking distance of a green colt's hindquarters and then reassess their opinion after showing them how effective and harmless it can be for all involved.

Please don't let this language pass in this bill.

Thanks,  
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(2) A person commits the offense of equine tripping if the person intentionally causes an equine to trip or fall, **or intentionally ropes or lassos the legs of an equine**, for purposes of a rodeo, contest, exhibition, entertainment or sport or as practice for a rodeo, contest, exhibition, entertainment or sport.

(3) **The offense of equine tripping is a Class B misdemeanor.**