Jeff Chapman has brought forth equine interest in SB 5364. This bill appears at first as a stretch for our interests. Yet, the horse racing industry would benefit off the backs of ALL equine users.

Here is how this bill would get its money:

From **state sales and use taxes** on the following equine-related products:

         Equines;

         Equine feed;

         Prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, or dietary supplements dispensed or to be dispensed to equines;

         Equine tack which includes, but is not limited to, equipment used to ride or care for an equine such as saddles, driving harnesses, girths, cinches, bridles, martingales, halters, lead ropes, whips, long reins, wraps, and other items used in handling and caring for equines;

         Horse bedding and grooming supplies; and

         Other taxable sales directly related to equine ownership, riding, or boarding.

This bill’s purpose is to benefit the horse racing industry. Jeff suggests that all equine users should benefit from this bill in the form of an amendment to increase the grant benefit percentage from 15% (as it states now) to 50%. This grant information is stated in Section 2(c)(ii) “Fifteen percent to be awarded as grants to support equine activities as defined in RCW 4.24.530(2) and to support equine breeding and racing industries”

RCW 4.24.530(2) says: (2) "Equine activity" means: (a) Equine shows, fairs, competitions, performances, or parades that involve any or all breeds of equines and any of the equine disciplines, including, but not limited to, dressage, hunter and jumper horse shows, grand prix jumping, three-day events, combined training, rodeos, driving, pulling, cutting, polo, steeplechasing, endurance trail riding and western games, and hunting; (b) equine training and/or teaching activities; (c) boarding equines; (d) riding, inspecting, or evaluating an equine belonging to another whether or not the owner has received some monetary consideration or other thing of value for the use of the equine or is permitting a prospective purchaser of the equine to ride, inspect, or evaluate the equine; and (e) rides, trips, hunts, or other equine activities of any type however informal or impromptu that are sponsored by an equine activity sponsor.

Comment from Jeff C. – “I'm not sure about the bill going anywhere, but it is an opportunity to address a key mission topic specifically tied to us, grants for horse recreation.   It needs to get past the cutoff to be heard further.  A public hearing would be a good way to rally horse folks.”

**Thank you Jeff** for information and details. We will stay tuned to see where this goes and how we can help to shape an amendment should this bill continue.

Mitzi