

The Indemnities (bonding) bill did pass both houses and is waiting on the Gov's desk for his signature. We have no reason to think that he won't sign it and hopefully he will. We may not know up until April 10th, which is the last day that he has to sign bills, if not it is a pocket veto. He has only signed a few bills into law so far so it is our belief that he and his staff are reviewing all of the bills that passed. We met with him several times on that bills and others and he seemed supportive. It might be good to have a letter from HSSNM sent to his office in support of the bill, especially with the significant impact that it has on Dona Ana County. We are sending such a letter and are recruiting other groups do to the same.

We also passed a bill that clarifies the language of the spay/neuter license plate which now instead of \$6 going towards spay/neuter programs as it was previously written, now, \$25 will go towards s/n programs. The money spent to buy the license plates will now go into the Animal Care and Facilities Fund of the ASSB and groups such as SNAP or others will be able to apply to use that money in their communities.

We lost the Equine Protection Fund at the legislative level, but it is not a total loss. That fund will instead be set up privately within the next couple of weeks and do the same thing the legislation was intended to do which is to set up a board that will administer funds to those groups that apply to care for horses around the state. The racing commission and horse groups will be on that board and will also be providing the funding.

We also lost the cruelty statute in its last committee on the Senate side. This doesn't mean that the bill is dead forever. With a complicated piece of legislation as it was, it sometimes can take a couple of years to ensure that there is no confusion (which there was) as to the intent of the bill and what its legal implications are.

Thanks for your always tremendous support of us.

Best,
Heather

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