

Assembly Bill 3053

Ensure State Fair Rules Allow Junior Exhibits to Opt-Out of “Terminal” Auctions Assembly Member Ash Kalra

Bill Summary

This bill will ensure that state rules governing junior fair exhibits (4-H, Future Farmers of America, etc.) allow families to keep an animal raised by a child participating in those programs from being sent to slaughter. It will also allow any winning bidder of an animal to pick up the animal alive, even if it was purchased through a “terminal” or “market” sale.

Existing Law

- The Fairs and Exhibitions Branch of the CDFA, along with the State Rules Advisory Committee, currently oversee state fairs and set the rules for junior exhibits.
- Current rules stipulate that junior exhibitors and their parents or guardians must agree that once any program animals in their care are entered into market competition and qualified by the market judge, the animals must be sold and processed, i.e. slaughtered.

Background

4-H, Future Farmers of America, and other similar programs have existed for many years, yet in California, the rules surrounding junior exhibits in state fairs have not kept up with changing norms. Many children who enter these programs evolve and come to see the animal in their care as a family member that should not be sent to slaughter.

Under existing fair rules, all animals entered into market competitions must go to slaughter after auction. The only way for parents and children to save the life of the animal they’ve grown to love is to break those rules.

This creates an often-tense scenario where parents seeking to support their child’s compassionate quest to save the animal are pitted against fair and state officials. A case in point is [the much publicized case of Cedar the goat](#), who was taken by the family that raised him, prompting fair officials to enlist the

Shasta County Sheriff office to track down the goat and see to it that he was sent to slaughter.

Fair and state officials may grant exceptions in such instances and allow a family to opt out of the “terminal” sale of their animal. But they can also deny such requests and leave families locked into contracts signed before their children got to know and love the animals they would raise.

This Bill

By allowing junior exhibitors to opt out of terminal sales at any time before the animal is transported from the fairgrounds, this bill will clearly determine the timeframe within which families can save the animals their children raise from slaughter.

Implementing this rule statewide will ensure that the rules surrounding opting out of a terminal sale are uniform across the state, thereby avoiding possible legal action that can ensue when children have a change of heart and are desperate to save an animal’s life.

Support

Social Compassion in Legislation (Sponsor)

For More Information

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