

## HB16-1447: State Fair Funding Rep. Esgar and Sen. Garcia

**Purpose:** Assist community groups in funding renovation of the State Fair Horse Show Arena to improve the fiscal self sustainability of the State Fair Grounds. Facilities like this are used year round and bring in substantial revenue.

### Talking Points:

- This appropriation will strictly be used on the Horse Show Arena of the Fair Grounds which is utilized by equestrians and 4H clubs from every corner of the state
- In 2015, one 4H event drew competitors from 31 counties:
  - Adams, Boulder, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Conejos, Delta, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Elbert, Fremont, Gunnison, Jefferson, Kit Carson, La Plata, Larimer, Las Animas, Logan, Mesa, Moffat, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Routt, San Miguel, Summit, and Weld
- The Colorado State Fair Horse Show Arena is used for a variety of events
  - a complex rental is \$900 a day, an additional \$600 for extensive event set ups, and \$200 a day for additional water and drag usage
  - 14 non-Fair horse shows throughout the year that increase out of state tourism
  - 2 roping competitions
  - 2 non-Fair 4H shows
  - Pueblo County Fair horse show, one of the largest 4H competitions in the country
- Beyond the variety of events hosted in the arena, a source of income for the facility is boarding horses overnight but this service isn't being utilized because of the current condition of the stables
  - Nightly rate per stall is \$15 per stall, per night
  - Nightly camping rate is \$30 per camper, per night
  - Recently completed an analysis on non-fair rental fees, the State Fair Board working on addressing their findings
- Arena and stall rentals and camping bring in a quarter of a million dollars every year
- The requested funds are being matched by community sources:
  - \$150,000 from Proposition BB
  - \$100,000 from the Colorado State Fair Foundation
  - \$175,000 from Pueblo County
  - \$125,000 from Pueblo City Council
  - Other gifts, grants, and donations including \$100,000 from a former horse show competitor
- The Colorado State Fair Horse Arena has also been used for the relocation of animals of all types during natural disasters like fires and floods