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Village of Wellington Local Bill Passed in House of Representatives

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today the House of Representatives passed [HB 979](#), a bill aimed at prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks located within the equestrian preserves in the Village of Wellington. The Village of Wellington is known as the Winter Equestrian Capital of the world, hosting thousands of spectators during the winter months that travel to Wellington to enjoy various equestrian sporting events. During the season, Wellington houses approximately 13,000 highly valuable horses that are bred and trained to compete in various equestrian sports. The owners of these horses devote an immense amount of time, energy, and financial resources to these valuable animals' care and training.

It is well documented that horses are startled by loud noises, and they are particularly frightened by fireworks. **HB 979** aims to give Wellington the ability to regulate fireworks only within its 9,000 acre Equestrian Preserve area.

After this legislation passed the House of Representatives, **Representative Willhite** issued the following statement.

“Wellington is a unique community, known for our equestrian sports. The horses that participate in these sporting events are like Olympic athletes, and inspire thousands to travel to The Village of Wellington every year. These equestrian sports are an economic driver for the Village. Because of Wellington’s unique circumstances, it’s a great accomplishment that the House passed this bill. Without it, Wellington will be unable to protect its equestrian citizens and their horses from the use of fireworks throughout the community on designated holidays.”

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