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DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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**January 15, 2002**

**INFORMATION BULLETIN 2002 - 01 (EH)**

**TO: LOCAL EMPLOYEE HOUSING ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES  
INTERESTED PARTIES  
DIVISION STAFF**

**SUBJECT: 2001 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

This Information Bulletin summarizes legislative changes impacting two forms of housing for workers in the state, brought about by the 2001 Legislative Session. These changes became effective January 1, 2002.

- **Chapter 783 of the 2001 Statutes (AB 856, Wesson) amends Sections 19455 and 19481.5 of the Business and Professions Code.**
  - Among other things, this bill requires the California Horse Racing Board to develop regulations governing housing provided for backstretch workers at racetracks licensed for horse racing. These new regulations must be commensurate with (but not governed by) the Employee Housing Act commencing with Section 17000 of the Health and Safety Code. The California Horse Racing Board is authorized to first adopt these regulations as emergency regulations followed by permanent regulations within eighteen months.
  - This bill also requires the California Horse Racing Board to conduct annual inspections beginning January 1, 2004, for compliance with the Board's regulations for backstretch housing prior to licensing these facilities to conduct horse racing. The Department of Housing and Community Development, local building department, or other enforcement agency will provide the California Horse Racing Board assistance with the inspections, designated by the jurisdiction in which the racetrack is located.

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➤ **Chapter 948 of the 2001 Statutes (AB 1675, Koretz) adds Part 12, commencing with Section 2695.1 to Division 2 of the Labor Code.**

- These new statutes regulate the sheepherding industry by providing specific employer requirements relative to labor conditions and housing.
- After January 1, 2003, employers providing mobile housing units for sheepherding employees, when practicable, must provide mobile housing units with toilet and shower facilities, heat, inside lighting, potable hot and cold water, adequate cooking facilities, utensils, and a means for food refrigeration.
- After January 1, 2003, sheepherders must be provided with:
  - ◆ Regular mail service.
  - ◆ Means of communication.
  - ◆ Visitor access to the housing.
  - ◆ Upon request, access to transportation to specific facilities.
  - ◆ Posted copy of this law in a language understood by the sheepherder or a specified equivalent.

This summary of legislative changes does not represent a complete publication of all new laws effecting housing for employees. The complete text of each bill discussed above may be obtained through the Department's Internet website located at: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/eh> or at the Official California Legislative Information website at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>.

If you have any questions regarding these new requirements, please contact our Employee Housing Program staff at (916) 445-9471.

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