

RESOLUTION # 26

EQUINE INDUSTRY

1 **WHEREAS**, many horses in New Jersey are used for competitive/sport and
2 recreation not directly connected to the horseracing industry; and

3 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's horse industry also helps sustain multiple supporting
4 economic factors, such as hay and grain producers, equine-equipment dealers and
5 those who work in the horse industry; and

6 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is surrounded by states that also have significant
7 pleasure-horse sectors not directly tied to the horseracing industry; and

8 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's equine sector would be better positioned to compete
9 with similar businesses in surrounding states if New Jersey adopted certain policies and
10 laws aimed at improving that competitive position; and

11 **WHEREAS**, according to a 2007 study by the Rutgers Equine Science Center,
12 the horse industry contributes approximately \$1 billion annually to New Jersey's
13 economy; and

14 **WHEREAS**, according to a 2014 study by the Rutgers Equine Science Center
15 into the comparative health of New Jersey's horseracing sector, the inclusion of
16 additional betting options at racetracks in Pennsylvania and New York, and the lack of
17 such options in New Jersey, has placed New Jersey's horseracing industry at a
18 competitive disadvantage, leading to a loss of breeders and a reduction in racing days
19 that could, over the long-term, lead to a reduction in equine support services and
20 industries in the state, which also would affect the pleasure-horse industry; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board, with its panel of 48
22 members, representing 16 breed groups and additional agricultural organizations, has as

23 one of its main functions the charge to recommend horse breeding and development
24 programs to the State Board of Agriculture.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 101st
26 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 10-
27 11, 2016, direct the Department and the Equine Advisory Board to form a committee to
28 pursue alternative funding options to support the Board's mission to promote the New
29 Jersey equine industry and to support youth educational programs and equine research
30 at the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Legislature to pass and the
32 Governor to sign legislation to exempt from the 7-percent state sales tax pursuant to the
33 "Sales and Use Tax Act" the activities of storing a horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny in
34 a barn, stable or other similar structure or facility by a person engaged in the business of
35 boarding, stabling or otherwise keeping or holding horses, ponies, mules, donkeys or
36 hinnies.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support legislation to exempt from the 7-
38 percent sales tax pursuant to the "Sales and Use Tax Act" the activities of maintaining or
39 servicing a horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny that is boarded or stabled of that is kept
40 or held in a barn, stable or other similar structure or facility by a person engaged in the
41 business of boarding or stabling or otherwise keeping or holding horses, ponies, mules,
42 donkeys, or hinnies.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department to pursue all
44 avenues to improve the marketing and enhancement of breeder programs and events in
45 New Jersey.