

RESOLUTION # 27

EQUINE INDUSTRY

1 **WHEREAS**, the equine industry in New Jersey is generally defined as horseracing,
2 breeding, sports competition, recreation, equine assisted therapy for children and adults,
3 publicly and privately owned equestrian facilities, research and development at the Rutgers
4 Equine Science Center and other equine and agriculturally related entities and activities; and

5 **WHEREAS**, horses are defined as livestock by the Department of Agriculture, and in
6 the law that led to the creation of the Humane Standards for the Treatment of Livestock
7 (N.J.A.C. 2:8) and therefore should be treated as livestock as it relates to state laws; and

8 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's horse industry also helps sustain multiple supporting
9 economic factors, such as hay and grain producers, equine-equipment dealers,
10 veterinarians, blacksmiths and others who work in the horse industry; and

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

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

16 **WHEREAS**, horse boarding operators are a major part of New Jersey's agriculture,
17 as their operations contribute to a continuation of open space, which enhances the overall
18 quality of life for New Jersey residents; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, according to a 2014 study by the Rutgers Equine Science Center into
21 the comparative health of New Jersey's horseracing sector, the inclusion of additional betting
22 options at racetracks in Pennsylvania and New York, and the lack of such options in New
23 Jersey, has placed New Jersey's horseracing industry at a competitive disadvantage, leading
24 to a loss of breeders and a reduction in racing days that could, over the long-term, lead to a

25 reduction in equine support services and industries in the state, which also would affect the
26 pleasure-horse industry; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board, with its panel of 48 members,
28 representing 16 breed groups and additional agricultural organizations, has as one of its
29 main functions the charge to recommend horse breeding and development programs to the
30 State Board of Agriculture.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103rd State
32 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018,
33 direct the Department and the Equine Advisory Board to continue pursuing alternative
34 funding options to support the Board's mission to promote the New Jersey equine industry
35 and to support youth educational programs and equine research at the Rutgers Equine
36 Science Center.

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

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support legislation to exempt from the New
43 Jersey state sales tax pursuant to the "Sales and Use Tax Act" the activities of maintaining or
44 providing services to a horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny.

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