

## RESOLUTION # 24

### EQUINE AND HORSERACING INDUSTRY

1           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's equine sector is diverse, involving, breeding, sports  
2 competition, recreation, equine assisted therapy for children and adults, publicly and  
3 privately owned equestrian facilities, research and development at the Rutgers Equine  
4 Science Center, horseracing, and other equine and agriculturally related entities and  
5 activities; and

6           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey, whose State Animal is the horse, is home to internationally  
7 renowned performance horses, especially in the field of sport horse competitors; and

8           **WHEREAS**, with New Jersey being the most densely populated state in the nation,  
9 recreational riders and drivers find it increasingly difficult to find public spaces to ride; and

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

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

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

19          **WHEREAS**, measures passed the Legislature and were signed into law by the  
20 Governor to re-establish the state's support for the horseracing industry by providing \$20  
21 million per year for a five-year period, support which has been made possible in large part by  
22 the state, including two of its three horseracing venues, establishing legal sports betting for  
23 the first time; and

24           **WHEREAS**, horse boarding operators are a major part of New Jersey's agriculture,  
25           as their operations contribute to a continuation of open space, which enhances the overall  
26           quality of life for New Jersey residents; 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 105<sup>th</sup> State  
32           Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 5-6, 2020,  
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 gratefully acknowledge the approval of the  
38           Legislature and the signing into law by the Governor the measure to provide \$20 million per  
39           year for a five-year period to re-establish the state's support for the horseracing industry.

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

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

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