

RESOLUTION # 18

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 all three of its horseracing venues, establishing legal sports betting for
23 the first time; and

24 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's horseracing industry, along with the entire industry
25 nationwide, was severely harmed by being unable to hold racing with fans in attendance due
26 to the health precautions necessary to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19; and

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

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

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 106th State
35 Agricultural Convention, assembled through a virtual platform hosted in Trenton, New
36 Jersey, in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic recommendations, on February 17, 2021,
37 direct the Department and the Equine Advisory Board to continue pursuing alternative
38 funding options to support the Board's mission to promote the New Jersey equine industry
39 and to support youth educational programs and equine research at the Rutgers Equine
40 Science Center.

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

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