

RESOLUTION # 28

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

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

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, there will be an additional \$2 million in stakes events for New
23 Jersey-sired horses at the Meadowlands Racetrack due to the success of sports betting in
24 New Jersey and; for 2022 the purses for New Jersey Sire Stakes races will increase 20
25 percent; and

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

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

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

36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107th State
37 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, N.J., on February 9-10, 2022, direct the
38 Department and the Equine Advisory Board to continue pursuing alternative funding options
39 to support the Board's mission to promote the New Jersey equine industry and to support
40 youth educational programs and equine research at the Rutgers Equine 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.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support legislation for the Veterinary
51 Medicine Loan Redemption Program, which provides for redemption of eligible qualifying
52 loan expenses for veterinarians who work for no less than five years at a site located within a
53 State-designated underserved area or within five miles of such a site.