

RESOLUTION # 25

EQUINE INDUSTRY

1 **WHEREAS**, according to the Rutgers Equine Science Center, about two-thirds of
2 all horses in New Jersey are used for competitive/sport and recreation not directly
3 connected to horseracing; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100th State
23 Agricultural Convention, gathered in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5, 2015,

24 direct the Department to support the efforts of the equine industry to find stable,
25 sufficient alternative funding for important programs that promote and enhance equine
26 activities across all segments of the equine industry.

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department to pursue funding
28 for research in support of the well-being and performance of the equine athlete and the
29 sustainability of New Jersey's equine sector.

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

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support legislation (A-3126), currently
34 pending in the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, that would
35 exempt from the 7-percent state sales tax pursuant to the "Sales and Use Tax Act" the
36 activities of "storing a horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny in a barn, stable, or other
37 similar structure or facility by a person engaged in the business of boarding or stabling or
38 otherwise keeping or holding horses, ponies, mules, donkeys or hinnies..."

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