

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Abandoned Horse Task Force.

2 WHEREAS, abandoning horses on reclaimed mine sites and other remote areas of
3 the state has become a problem in the Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, the problem first presented in 2015 and in response, the General
5 Assembly established the Free Roaming Horse Task Force in 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, through the work of the Free Roaming Horse Task Force, the public
7 learned that abandoned domestic horses quickly become feral, reproduce, and become
8 dangerous and unwieldy for animal control officers to capture; and

9 WHEREAS, abandoned feral horses roam in search of food and shelter, need
10 veterinary care, and are at risk of causing accidents and injuring themselves on reclaimed
11 coal mine sites; and

12 WHEREAS, there have been incidents where feral horses have run out in front of
13 automobiles causing a public safety hazard; and

14 WHEREAS, unfortunately in reaction to the difficulties in catching and removing
15 these horses, the problem has gone largely unattended leading to lawless actions such as
16 the recent shooting of abandoned horses in Floyd County, Kentucky, in 2019; and

17 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that reconvening a task force of various
18 stakeholder groups is necessary and appropriate to produce a consensus for humanely
19 addressing the problem of individuals abandoning their horses and removing those horses
20 from these remote, reclaimed mine sites;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
23 ***Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:***

24 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to establish
25 the Abandoned Horse Task Force to discuss the problems caused by the growing
26 population of abandoned horses, ways to stop individuals from abandoning their horses
27 and ways to remove the horses that are currently running at large, becoming feral, and

1 reproducing a subsequent generation of undomesticated horses.

2 ➔Section 2. The task force shall be composed of the following 15 members, with
3 the final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of
4 the Legislative Research Commission:

5 (1) The chair of the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
6 to serve as co-chair;

7 (2) The chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
8 to serve as co-chair;

9 (3) Two additional members of the Senate, one to be appointed by the President
10 of the Senate, and one to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;

11 (4) Two additional members of the House of Representatives, one to be appointed
12 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one to be appointed by the Minority
13 Floor Leader of the House of Representatives;

14 (5) The state veterinarian, or his or her designee;

15 (6) The commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, or his or
16 her designee;

17 (7) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or his or her designee;

18 (8) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, or the his or her
19 designee;

20 (8) The executive director of the Kentucky Horse Council, or his or her designee;

21 (9) The president of the Appalachian Wildlife Federation, or his or her designee;

22 (10) The president of the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, or his or her
23 designee;

24 (11) A representative of shelters working with and receiving horses for care
25 recommended by the Kentucky Humane Society and selected by the co-chairs of the task
26 force; and

27 (12) A county judge/executive selected by the co-chairs of the task force.

1 ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet upon the call of the co-chairs, and shall
2 submit its legislative findings by November 30, 2020.

3 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the
4 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
5 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof and to
6 designate a study completion date.