

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 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 members, with the
3 final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the
4 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 designee;

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

17 (7) The commissioner of Agriculture, or designee;

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

19 (8) The executive director of the Kentucky Horse Council, or designee;

20 (9) The president of the Appalachian Wildlife Federation, or designee;

21 (10) The president of the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center, or designee;

22 (11) A representative of shelters working with and receiving horses for care
23 recommended by the Kentucky Humane Society; and

24 (12) A county judge/executive recommended by the Kentucky County
25 Judge/Executive Association.

26 ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet at least three times during the 2021 Interim,
27 and shall submit a memorandum on the activities of the task force, legislative findings, or

1 recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2021.

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