

Kentucky House Resolution 64 Spring 2021

A RESOLUTION expressing support for the Quarter Horse industry and the thousands of citizens in all Kentucky's 120 counties who love, own, show, race, and breed Quarter Horses.

WHEREAS, the opening of the "Kentucky Territory" in 1775 by Daniel Boone through the Wilderness Trail enabled "Celebrated Quarter Running Horses" from Virginia to be the first breed in this region for over half a century; and

WHEREAS, an older historical marker near Lexington reads, "First Race Course: Near this spot pioneers in 1780 established the starting point of the first race path in Kentucky, extending southward one quarter mile"; and

WHEREAS, the American Quarter Horse Association has confirmed through its modern computerized ownership records that there are over 30,000 registered Quarter Horses in Kentucky in 2021, and these horses are owned by more than 10,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, multi-purpose Quarter Horses are the most popular breed in the world, and Kentucky can boast more than 20 organizations promoting specific sports or disciplines; e.g. barrel racing, cutting, reining, and many more; and

WHEREAS, pari-mutuel Quarter Horse sprint racing was popular at two Kentucky tracks that, due to various factors, no longer exist. In 1988 there was an 81-day quarter meet at one track and a 59-day sprint-race meet at the other; and

WHEREAS, there are several places within the Kentucky Revised Statutes that reference "a track for Quarter Horses." Yet there has been no licensed Quarter Horse track, or a race meet, in Kentucky for three decades; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky lawmakers authorized nine race tracks, seven of which are formally operating, and six eligible racing breeds, including four that were crowded out and are unserved: Appaloosas, Arabians, Paints, and Quarter Horses;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

- Section 1. This body urges and emphasizes appropriate recognition and support of the Quarter Horse industry as an honored tradition and an important contributor to the economic vitality of Kentucky in terms of agriculture, entertainment, and recreation.
- Section 2. This body further recommends that at least one of the limited pari-mutuel race track licenses made available in Kentucky by this General Assembly be either awarded, or held for timely awarding in the future, to a race track facility explicitly for Quarter Horse, or so-called "sprint racing."
- Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, 4603 Iron Works Parkway Building B, Lexington, Kentucky 40511.