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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes the role of equines in the economy, history, viewscape, and character of Illinois - from the horses our forefathers used to settle the prairie and build our great State, transport people and goods, clear and till land, harvest and thresh grains, herd cattle, power our mills, pull our barges, serve in our military, fight our fires, and deliver our mail; to the horses of today who assist in police crowd control, provide therapeutic aid to veterans and disabled persons, and still work our farms; horses are used for pleasure riding, and for our enjoyment at race tracks such as Arlington Park, Hawthorne, and Fairmont Park; and

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WHEREAS, There are equine properties of all sizes in Illinois, including breeding farms, boarding and training facilities, riding schools, small acreage farmettes, showgrounds, and equine-based therapy centers; and

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WHEREAS, Equine operations encompass thousands of acres, representing a significant part of our land kept in open space, pasture and forestland; and

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WHEREAS, Horses are a source of Illinois jobs and income for thousands of residents both directly and indirectly,

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1 including services such as veterinarians, trainers, farriers,
2 chiropractors, grooms, stable hands, entertainers,
3 carriage/sleigh/hay wagon drivers, jockeys, and sellers of
4 goods such as lumber, hay, grain, grass seed, bedding, tack,
5 trucks, horse trailers, and more; and

6 WHEREAS, The Horsemen's Council of Illinois helps promote
7 and educate the public about the importance of horses in
8 Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, The equine industry brings significant benefits
10 to Illinois agriculture, tourism, and our quality of life;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
14 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the citizens of Illinois to
15 recognize the importance of horses to our security, economy,
16 recreation, and heritage, and to lend their enthusiastic
17 support to the Illinois equine industry; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we declare December 13, 2016 as "Illinois
19 Day of the Horse"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the Horsemen's Council of Illinois as a symbol of

SJ0046

-3-

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1 our respect and esteem.