GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2016 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

AS ENACTED

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016

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Governor's signature
ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY K. Adler

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Free-roaming Horse Task
2 Force.
3 WHEREAS, as a result of the economic downturn of 2007 through 2009 and
4 continuing poor economic conditions for some horse owners in the Commonwealth, the
5 population of free-roaming horses in Kentucky has grown; and
6 WHEREAS, untended horses face illness, malnourishment, and neglect when they
7 are abandoned, a cycle which continues for generations when they are left to breed in the
8 wild; and
9 WHEREAS, it is illegal for a horse owner to abandon a horse in the
10 Commonwealth; and
11 WHEREAS, free-roaming, unmanaged horses can create public safety challenges
12 for communities across the Commonwealth; and
13 WHEREAS, large populations of free-roaming horses are now congregating on
14 reclaimed mine sites, stripping them of vegetation and necessitating the replanting of that
15 lost vegetation to maintain the environmental benefits to the reclamation site and
16 surrounding areas; and
17 WHEREAS, recent legislative efforts have been positive steps towards humanely
18 managing the free-roaming horse population in the Commonwealth, but more can be
19 done; and
20 WHEREAS, horses are symbolic animals in the Commonwealth; and
21 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that convening a task force of various
22 stakeholder groups and representatives of state and local government is necessary and
23 appropriate to produce consensus legislative recommendations for addressing the humane
24 management of free-roaming horses in the Commonwealth;
25 NOW, THEREFORE,
26 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
27 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

1 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to establish
2 the Free-roaming Horse Task Force to study and develop consensus legislative
3 recommendations to address the problems caused by the current population of free-
4 roaming horses in the Commonwealth and to curb the future growth of that population.
5 ➔Section 2. The task force shall be composed of the following members, with
6 final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the
7 Legislative Research Commission:
8 (1) The chair of the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources and
9 Environment to serve as co-chair;
10 (2) The chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
11 to serve as co-chair;
12 (3) Two additional members of the Senate, one to be appointed by the President
13 of the Senate, and one to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;
14 (4) Two additional members of the House of Representatives, one to be appointed
15 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one to be appointed by the Minority
16 Floor Leader of the House of Representatives;
17 (5) The chair of the Kentucky Horse Park Commission, or the chair's designee;
18 (6) The commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, or the
19 commissioner's designee;
20 (7) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the Commissioner's designee;
21 (8) The president of the Kentucky Coal Association, or the president's designee;
22 (9) The state veterinarian, or the veterinarian's designee;
23 (10) The president of the Appalachian Wildlife Federation, or the president's
24 designee;
25 (11) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, or the secretary's
26 designee;
27 (12) The executive director of the Kentucky Horse Council, or the executive

1 director's the designee;

2 (13) A Kentucky County Judge/Executive, to be chosen by the president of the
3 Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association;

4 (14) An expert in bonding for mine reclamation, to be chosen upon agreement of
5 the co-chairs; and

6 (15) A representative of shelters within the Commonwealth for abandoned horses,
7 to be chosen upon agreement of the co-chairs.

8 ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet at least three times between the effective
9 date of this Resolution and the date that it submits its legislative recommendations to the
10 Legislative Research Commission.

11 ➔Section 4. The task force shall submit its legislative recommendations to the
12 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees
13 by November 30, 2016.

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

Speaker-House of Representatives

President of Senate

Attest:

Chief Clerk of House of Representatives

Approved

Governor

Date