



# EQUINE LEGISLATIVE DAY

## Equine Commission Proposal



# Changes in the Michigan Horse Industry

- ▣ 1982 (not survey results)
  - Estimates were 250,000 horses in Michigan, in 1982 MI of the 30 states that allowed pari-mutuel betting ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in pari-mutuel wagering and 5<sup>th</sup> in state revenue from racing
- ▣ 1991 Survey results
  - 130,000 horses, 28,000 operations, \$256M horse related expenses
- ▣ 1996 Survey results
  - 133,000 horses
- ▣ 2007 Survey results
  - 155,000 horses, 35,000 operations, \$805M horse related expenses

# 2017 Michigan Results

## from American Horse Council Survey

- ▣ Total Value Added to the Michigan Economy: \$1.6 billion
- ▣ Total Michigan Employment Impact: 30,739 jobs
  - Direct Employment Impact: 22,068 jobs
- ▣ Direct Contribution to Michigan GDP: \$893 million
- ▣ 188,865 horses in Michigan- making it the twelfth largest state in terms of horse population
- ▣ 628,000 acres of land in Michigan used for horse-related purposes.

# What is needed in the future?

- 1982 Governor's Conference on the Horse Industry
  - Lt. Governor James H. Brickley called for the equine industry to unite and work for common goals
    - Recommendations from the 1982 Conference
      - MI horse industry should establish an equine commission to promote horse related activities
      - MI horse industry should establish a check-off program to generated funding for the work of the equine commission
  - Subsequent Governor's and state wide conferences also recommended the establishment of an Equine Commission

## Development of current proposal

- ▣ 44 leaders from every segment of the horse industry were invited to participate in the development of a plan to establish an Equine Promotional Fund
- ▣ When asked if they believed in the idea they unanimously supported the concept
- ▣ The working group ended up being about 25 people who were willing to take the time to flesh out the proposal

## What is the status of the current proposal?

- ▣ The language of the Bill is still being developed
- ▣ Current recommendation is a fee of \$3.00 per Coggins test drawn on Michigan horses and \$5.00 per ton of formulated horse feed sold in Michigan
- ▣ The commission will consist of members representing all aspects of the MI horse industry, charged with the goal of working for the total industry

# Suggested use of the funds

*Actual use to be determined by Commission*

- ▣ Support of state FFA equine programs
- ▣ Grants to 4-H expansion programs
- ▣ Scholarship programs
- ▣ Charitable equine programs such as camps, riding programs for the disabled and veterans and equine rescues
- ▣ Equine health and welfare, including welfare programs that retrain and re-home unwanted horses, and equine studies and health research
- ▣ Investment in existing equine exhibition facilities
- ▣ Promotion of horses and the horse industry, including, especially, creation of marketing materials and educational and networking programs for those not yet acquainted with horses

# Questions??

