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April 4, 2022

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 3261

By: Randleman of the House

and

# Stephens of the Senate

An Act relating to definitions and general provisions; providing history of the American Quarter Horse; designating the American Quarter Horse as the state horse of Oklahoma; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

The American Quarter Horse shall be designated as the state horse of Oklahoma. The American Quarter Horse's name is derived from its ability to outrun other horse breeds in races of one-quarter (1/4) mile or less; some have been clocked at speeds of up to fifty-five (55) miles per hour. In addition, the American Quarter Horse is known as a quick and smart cow horse and is the most popular breed of horse in the United States today. For nearly fifty (50) years, the American Quarter Horse Association has held its world championship show in Oklahoma City. The Colonial Spanish

1 Horse of Oklahoma has deeply rich ties to the American Quarter  
2 Horse. The Colonial Spanish Horse was brought to America in the  
3 1500s by the Spanish conquistadors. These were pure Spanish  
4 Mustangs, a relatively small but tough breed of horse. After the  
5 introduction of these horses to Native American tribes, the horses  
6 became essential to the tribes, who began to rely heavily on them  
7 for their travels during times of war and hardship, as well as for  
8 hunting. In addition, the Native American tribes utilized the  
9 Colonial Spanish Horse to traverse the Trail of Tears. The Colonial  
10 Spanish Horse of Oklahoma is the only native horse in the state and  
11 has the purest bloodline. There is evidence that the Spanish  
12 Mustangs obtained from the Native American tribes were crossed with  
13 the English colonists' stock as early as the year 1611. The product  
14 of this breeding would come to be known as the American Quarter  
15 Horse. Currently, Oklahoma is fifth in the nation in total horse  
16 numbers, behind only Texas, California, Florida, and Ohio. Horses  
17 in Oklahoma are used for diverse purposes with forty-four percent  
18 (44%) being privately owned, seventeen percent (17%) used for  
19 showing, and seventeen percent (17%) for racing. The predominant  
20 horse breed in Oklahoma is the American Quarter Horse. The American  
21 Horse Council estimates about one hundred four thousand (104,000)  
22 American Quarter Horses were in Oklahoma in 2017. Oklahoma was  
23 listed second in the United States in total American Quarter Horse  
24

1 numbers. For the reasons listed above, the American Quarter Horse  
2 deserves to be designated as the state horse of Oklahoma.

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 94.17 of Title 25, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 The American Quarter Horse is hereby designated and adopted as  
7 the state horse of Oklahoma.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE  
10 April 4, 2022 - DO PASS  
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