

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 72

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

WHEREAS, Nebraska has a rich history in agricultural based sports such as horse racing, rodeo, and equestrian sport; and

WHEREAS, equestrian events in the United States are sanctioned by the United States Equestrian Federation and the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI); and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Equestrian Foundation hosts worldwide, national, and regional equestrian events including the Longines FEI World Cup Finals Jumping and Dressage 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Equestrian Foundation held the first annual International Omaha event in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Omaha Equestrian Foundation hosted Nebraska's first global championship, the FEI World Cup Finals. The finals brought over 52,000 people from 42 countries and all fifty states to Omaha. The economic impact to Nebraska was approximately \$18,000,000 and included the booking of over 8,000 hotel room nights. The event brought 235 journalists from 14 different countries to Omaha, and the Finals were broadcast on the NBC television network. The publicity led to 1,124 media placements locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, including media placements in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, International Omaha drew in over 20,000 fans from 35 states and four foreign countries, generating 1,800 hotel room nights. Half of all tickets were sold to out-of-state attendees, and over 3,200 school children experienced the event through the promoters School Field Trip Program. In addition, the television broadcast and live-stream of the event reached 49

states and 20 countries; and

WHEREAS, the annual International Omaha spurs economic development and has increased demand for professional horse services locally. Equestrian lessons are up markedly in the area and a number of horse training, veterinary, and care professionals have relocated to Nebraska which is developing into the "Horse Capitol of the Midwest"; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 International Omaha event will be hosted in Omaha at the CHI Health Center on April 4, 5, 6, and 7; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Equestrian Foundation has bid to host the Longines FEI World Cup Finals Jumping and FEI World Cup Finals Dressage 2023. The FEI will vote in June 2019 to determine the host for the FEI World Cup Finals 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the Omaha Equestrian Foundation as an important economic development organization and the Longines FEI World Cup Finals as the world's premier equestrian event.

2. That the Legislature supports the Omaha Equestrian Foundation's bid to host the Longines FEI World Cup Finals in 2023 and strongly encourages the Federation Equestre Internationale to select Nebraska to host the event.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Omaha Equestrian Foundation and the Federation Equestre Internationale.