

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2—ASSEMBLYMAN COLLINS

PREFILED JANUARY 14, 1999

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to amend provisions of Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to require population of wild horses to be maintained at certain level. (BDR R-1018)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~for omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to amend the provisions of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain at a certain level the population of wild horses living on the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service.

- 1 WHEREAS, On December 15, 1971, Congress enacted the provisions of
- 2 the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq.;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, The purpose of the Act is to preserve the wild horses and
- 5 burros living on the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land
- 6 Management and the United States Forest Service and to protect those wild
- 7 horses and burros from capture, branding, harassment and death; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Since 1971, the population of wild horses living on the
- 9 public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United
- 10 States Forest Service has increased dramatically, particularly in Nevada
- 11 where the largest population of those wild horses exists; and
- 12 WHEREAS, The Act requires the Secretary of the Interior and the
- 13 Secretary of Agriculture to manage the wild horses living on the public
- 14 lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the United
- 15 States Forest Service in a manner that will achieve and maintain a natural
- 16 ecological balance on those public lands; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Pursuant to that Act, if the Secretary of the Interior or the
- 18 Secretary of Agriculture determines that an overpopulation of wild horses
- 19 exists in an area of the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land

1 Management and the United States Forest Service, the secretary must
2 remove the excess wild horses from those areas to achieve an appropriate
3 level of management for the wild horses; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the provisions of the Act address the issue of
5 overpopulation of wild horses, the Act does not require that the population
6 of wild horses be maintained at a particular level, thereby allowing the
7 population of wild horses to expand far beyond the level envisioned by
8 Congress in 1971; and

9 WHEREAS, Allowing an excessive number of wild horses to live on the
10 public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United
11 States Forest Service causes those public lands to deteriorate from overuse
12 and contravenes the purposes of the Taylor Grazing Act, 43 U.S.C. §§ 315
13 et seq., and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43
14 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq., which are intended to protect those public lands
15 from deterioration and overuse; and

16 WHEREAS, Requiring the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of
17 Agriculture to maintain the population of wild horses living on the public
18 lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States
19 Forest Service at the level established for those wild horses in 1975 will:

- 20 1. Improve the condition of the ranges used by the wild horses;
- 21 2. Increase the population and improve the habitat of deer, antelope
22 and other species of wildlife living on those public lands;
- 23 3. Allow an increased use of the public lands for grazing and the
24 development of native flora and vegetation;
- 25 4. Improve conditions for hunting and other outdoor sports;
- 26 5. Reduce the amount of money required to shelter, feed and prepare
27 wild horses for adoption; and
- 28 6. Reduce the risk of deaths of wild horses because of freezing and
29 starvation during the winter; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
31 JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature urges Congress to amend the
32 provisions of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to require the
33 Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain the
34 population of wild horses living on the public lands managed by the Bureau
35 of Land Management and the United States Forest Service at the level
36 established for those wild horses in 1975; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
38 copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the
39 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
40 Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation and
41 each legislature of the other 49 states; and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
- 2 approval.

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