

CHAPTER 17**(HB 212)**

AN ACT designating the Kentucky Springseat Saddle (Minihan) as the official saddle of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

WHEREAS, Eugene Minihan, a citizen of Owingsville, Kentucky, and a saddler of exemplary skill, artistry, and vision, developed and sold from a small shop on present-day North Court Street a saddle considered by knowledgeable horsemen as the best riding saddle ever made; and

WHEREAS, from the late 1880s to the time of his death in 1926, Eugene Minihan used a labor-intensive process to splice and join stiff pieces of leather to create a type of hinged saddle tree design, known as the Kentucky Springseat Saddle (Minihan), that was comfortable for both the horse and rider; and

WHEREAS, Eugene Minihan was also known for an elaborate quilting pattern on the saddle seat that used wool stuffed under the fabric to give an elaborate three-dimensional effect; and

WHEREAS, original Minihan saddles, the newest being nearly a century in age, are highly prized by collectors and can still be seen in galleries and exhibit halls that curate riding horse artifacts; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky University's Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work is laboring to raise awareness of the importance of horses and horsemen in all aspects of life in Kentucky's Appalachian region;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The Kentucky Springseat Saddle (Minihan) is named and designated the official saddle of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Signed by Governor March 15, 2019.