

1 AN ACT designating the Kentucky Springseat Saddle as the official saddle of the
2 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, Eugene Minihan, a native of Owingsville, Kentucky, and a saddler
4 exemplary skill, artistry, and vision, developed and sold from a small shop on present-day
5 Jefferson Street a saddle considered by knowledgeable horsemen as the first riding saddle
6 ever made; and

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

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

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

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

24 ***The Kentucky Springseat Saddle shall be named and designated the official saddle of***
25 ***the Commonwealth of Kentucky.***