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**ACR-79 Equestrian Heritage Day.** (2025-2026)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**NO. 79**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Castillo**

**May 05, 2025**

Relative to Equestrian Heritage Day.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 79, as introduced, Castillo. Equestrian Heritage Day.

This measure would proclaim July 15, 2025, and July 15th annually thereafter, as Equestrian Heritage Day.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Equestrian activities have played a vital role in the history, culture, and economy of California, contributing to the state's identity and fostering a deep appreciation for the rural way of life; and

WHEREAS, The tradition of horseback riding, ranching, farming, and equestrian sports has been passed down for generations, enriching communities and providing educational, recreational, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, The equestrian heritage of California is deeply intertwined with the traditions of Indigenous peoples and early settlers, reflecting a rich tapestry of cultural influences that have shaped the state's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, California's rural communities and open spaces serve as vital environments for equestrian activities, supporting local businesses, preserving historical practices, and promoting outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, California's equestrian events, such as rodeos, horse shows, and trail rides, not only showcase the skills and talents of riders and horses but also serve as an important platform for cultural education, storytelling, and the preservation of local customs; and

WHEREAS, The unique landscapes and climates of California provide ideal conditions for a wide variety of equestrian disciplines, from Western riding and rodeo to English riding and dressage, showcasing the state's diversity in equestrian pursuits; and

WHEREAS, The equestrian industry contributes significantly to California's economy through agriculture, tourism, breeding, training, and competitive events, generating employment and sustaining the livelihoods of many residents; and

WHEREAS, The legacy of California's equestrian heritage serves as an inspiration for agricultural practices, encouraging future generations to engage in responsible land management and conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, Equestrian activities provide numerous social and health benefits, including therapeutic riding programs for individuals with disabilities, youth development programs through organizations such as 4-H and FFA, and opportunities for physical fitness and mental well being; and

WHEREAS, It is essential to preserve California's rural lifestyle and equestrian heritage by supporting policies that protect open spaces, maintain trails, and ensure the sustainability of agricultural and equestrian communities; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the importance of promoting and celebrating equestrian traditions, encouraging future generations to participate in and appreciate the values of responsibility, stewardship, and respect for nature that these activities instill; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims July 15, 2025, and July 15th annually thereafter, as Equestrian Heritage Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature celebrates the rich heritage of equestrian activities in California and recognizes their economic, cultural, and social significance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages continued support for policies that protect rural communities, equestrian lands, and agricultural industries, ensuring their sustainability for future generations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and support for the preservation of equestrian heritage and the rural lifestyle in California.