

Chapter 52

(Senate Bill 294)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Horse Industry Board – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

FOR the purpose of continuing the Maryland Horse Industry Board in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending to a certain date the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board; ~~repealing a certain restriction on the use of certain funds generated by commercial equine feed assessments~~; requiring that an evaluation of the Board be performed on or before a certain date; requiring the Board to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Agriculture

Section 2-719 ~~and 6-107.2~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2007 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Agriculture

Section 6-107.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2007 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 8-403(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 8-403(b)(26)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture

2–719.

Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Program Evaluation Act, the provisions of this subtitle and of any rule or regulation adopted under this subtitle shall terminate and be of no effect after July 1, [2016] **2026**.

6–107.2.

(a) The Secretary may establish an assessment of up to \$6 per ton on commercial equine feed that is sold in Maryland.

(b) The assessment shall be paid by the person registering the feed according to the collection and reporting guidelines established by the Secretary by regulation.

(c) Any assessments collected shall be paid into the Maryland Horse Industry Fund as provided in § 2–708.2 of this article.

(d) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to:

(1) Allow a person who purchases commercial equine feed in the State to request reimbursement of any assessment that was paid on the feed; and

(2) Require that a purchaser of feed be notified, at the point of sale, of the possibility of reimbursement.

~~¶~~(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, any funds collected under this section may be used only for education, research, and promotional materials and activities intended to benefit the Maryland equine industry.~~¶~~

Article – State Government

8–403.

(a) On or before December 15 of the evaluation year specified, the Department shall:

(1) conduct a preliminary evaluation of each governmental activity or unit to be evaluated under this section; and

(2) prepare a report on each preliminary evaluation conducted.

(b) Each of the following governmental activities or units and the statutes and regulations that relate to the governmental activities or units are subject to preliminary evaluation in the evaluation year specified:

(26) Horse Industry Board, Maryland (§ 2-701 of the Agriculture Article: [2013] **2023**);

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2015, the Maryland Horse Industry Board shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the Board's use of its civil enforcement authority and the Board's progress in balancing its revenues and expenditures once contractual expenses for the Maryland horse park study end.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2014.