

MICHELE GUYTON  
*Legislative District 42B*  
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 306  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3793 • 301-858-3793  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793  
Michele.Guyton@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 23, 2020

Support HB171--Crimes Against Animals--Interference with Livestock

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 171. This legislation expands the protections that are already in statute to protect race horses and horses used for competition to other livestock. Domestic animals such as cats and dogs are protected under the criminal animal abuse laws but these do not apply to livestock animals such as cows, sheep, pigs, goats, mules and others. This is a simple bill that gives livestock, such as carriage horses and farm animals, the same statutory protections as race horses. Examples may include fair animals on exhibition, carriage horses that may be blocked or unhooked, farm animals that are released and put the livestock and the public at risk. People that act to interfere with livestock in such a way that meets the standard outlined in statute will face the same consequences as those who interfere with race horses and competition horses. This bill is cross-filed in the Senate by Senator Hester.

I ask for a favorable report on HB171.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton