



**Maryland  
Department of Agriculture**

*Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services*

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**Aruna Miller**, Lt. Governor  
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*Maryland Horse Industry Board*

Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*  
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Dear Chair and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 225, which extends the statutory authority of the Maryland Horse Industry Board through July 1, 2036, in accordance with the Maryland Program Evaluation Act.

For decades, the Maryland Horse Industry Board has served as the State's primary mechanism for coordinating, stewarding, and reinvesting resources generated by Maryland's diverse horse industry. The Board provides a trusted and accountable structure that allows the State to administer dedicated industry funds, license public stables, oversee the grant program, and ensure transparency, compliance, and measurable public benefit—without reliance on General Fund appropriations.

To Maryland's horse industry, the Board functions as a unifying platform that reinvests industry-generated revenues into education, workforce development, animal health and welfare, promotion, and economic activity across all equine sectors. It offers a consistent, statewide point of coordination that supports long-term planning, cross-sector collaboration, and industry stability. The Stable Licensing program protects welfare of horse and riders at public stables in Maryland – a one-of-a-kind consumer and welfare protection for the horse industry. By bridging state government and a broad private-sector ecosystem, the Board helps protect Maryland's position as a national leader in the horse industry and strengthens the economic, agricultural, and cultural value horses provide to the State.

HB 225 is a straightforward sunset extension. It does not create new programs, expand authority, or require additional appropriations. Instead, it preserves continuity and allows the Board to continue its existing operations responsibly and efficiently. If the Board were allowed to sunset, the fiscal impact would not be neutral. The State would lose statutory authority to administer and disburse dedicated industry funds, established grant programs would be eliminated without producing savings, and administrative disruption could lead to increased long-term costs should similar functions need to be reestablished.

Maryland's horse industry is a \$2.9 billion economic driver that sustains jobs, preserves open space, and supports agriculture and tourism statewide. Passage of HB 225 maintains stability at no additional cost to the State, avoids unnecessary inefficiencies, and ensures continued stewardship of resources that are generated by—and reinvested back into—the industry itself.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 225.

Sincerely,

**Anne Litz: Executive Director**, Maryland Horse Industry Board  
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