



Maryland Farm Bureau

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January 27th, 2026

To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support for HB225 - Maryland Horse Industry Board - Sunset Extension

On behalf of the over 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit testimony in support of HB225 - Maryland Horse Industry Board - Sunset Extension. This proposed legislation would extend the sunset date of the Maryland Horse Industry Board from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2036.

The Maryland Horse Industry Board plays a critical role in supporting one of the state's most significant agricultural sectors. The equine industry contributes substantially to Maryland's rural economy, supports thousands of farm families, preserves open space, and sustains agricultural employment across the state.

House Bill 225 is a straightforward sunset extension that does not expand the Board's authority, alter its structure, or create new regulatory requirements. Instead, it ensures the continuation of an established advisory body that provides industry expertise to the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the General Assembly.

The continuation of the Maryland Horse Industry Board is essential to ensuring consistent industry representation, policy stability, and effective communication between the equine community and state government. The Board provides a formal mechanism for horse owners, breeders, trainers, and farm operators to share expertise and advise the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the General Assembly on issues affecting this capital-intensive, land-based agricultural sector. Maintaining the Board promotes long-term planning certainty for equine operations, supports rural economies, and reinforces the role of horse farms in farmland preservation and open space protection.

House Bill 225 ensures continuity, stability, and industry engagement without creating new regulatory or fiscal burdens. The bill aligns squarely with Maryland Farm Bureau policy and supports the ongoing viability of Maryland's equine industry as a key component of agriculture.

Maryland Farm Bureau urges a favorable report on House Bill 225

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions