



1136 Priestford Road
Street, MD 21154
443.528.7793
ctrchanginglives.org

January 23, 2026

Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB225

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Horse Discovery Center through the Maryland Horse Industry Board, I am writing this letter in support of HB 225 - Maryland Horse Industry Board - Sunset Extension.

- HB 225 extends the statutory authority of the Maryland Horse Industry Board through July 1, 2036, ensuring continuity under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act.
- The bill does not create new programs, powers, or appropriations and carries no additional fiscal impact to the State.
- Passage of HB 225 preserves the Board's authority to administer and steward dedicated industry funds, including competitive grant programs that reinvest directly into Maryland's horse industry.
- The Maryland Horse Industry Board provides an established, accountable structure for coordinating education, workforce development, animal health and welfare, equine-related economic activity statewide and as the licensing body for Maryland Licensed Stable stables
- Allowing the Board to sunset would eliminate an effective mechanism for managing existing resources, create operational disruption, and risk inefficiencies or higher costs if similar functions must later be reestablished.
- HB 225 supports stability and long-term planning for Maryland's \$2.9 billion horse industry, which sustains jobs, preserves open space, and contributes to the State's agricultural and tourism economies.
- Extending the Board aligns with sound governance practices by maintaining oversight, transparency, and continuity while remaining subject to future evaluation under State law.
- Extending the Board signals Industry and Stakeholders shows that the State is continuing to support the horse industry's long-term planning and investment

The Maryland Horse Industry Board is essential to all horse-related organizations and activities in the State of Maryland. Please extend the statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Cathleen A. Schmidt
Founder and Executive Director