



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 606 | Lisbon, Maryland 21797
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One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on HB 225

Maryland Horse Industry Board – Sunset Extension

Appropriations – January 27, 2026 @ 1 p.m.

FAVORABLE

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them. We are a \$2.9 billion industry.¹

We urge a favorable report on HB 225 to extend the sunset provision of Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) from 2026 to 2036.

Maryland is home to more horses per square mile than any other state in the country, and we are blessed with over 800 lesson and boarding stables that support our large equine population. These lesson and boarding stables are the lifeblood of the industry – they train and educate the next generation of recreational and competition riders, of trainers, of jockeys, and farriers and veterinarians alike.

MHIB plays a critical role in our industry by licensing these lesson and boarding barns to make sure they meet minimum standards of safety and equine health and welfare. We are the only state in the country to have a licensing program of this sort.

¹ See American Horse Council Economic Impact Study for Maryland (2024), available at mdhorsecouncil.org/educational-resources/.



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MHIB inspectors travel across the state to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements and to report equine animal welfare concerns to the Maryland State Veterinarian and to other members of MDA's Animal Health team.

Maryland's horses deserve our continued best efforts to keep them as healthy, happy, and safe as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

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