



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

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One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

In the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, February 18, 2026

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 453

Horse Racing - Laurel Park - Arabian Breed Racing Authorization - 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 the interests of over 700,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own or know and love them.

The UAE President Cup began in 1994. In partnership with the Arabian Jockey Club, UAE President Cup races have been held at Pimlico on the same card as the Preakness in 2012, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2025.

The 2025 UAE President Cup was held at Pimlico for Preakness 150 on May 17, 2025, and was the richest Arabian horse race in American history with a purse of \$200,000.

The Horse Council supports continuing this tradition of hosting Arabian racing at Laurel Park while Pimlico reconstruction is underway.

We urge a Favorable report on SB 453.

Respectfully submitted,

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