



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States

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Health Committee

**HB 625 - Human-Relevant Research Fund-Collection of Contributions-Responsible Entity
FAVORABLE**

Chair Bagnell, Vice-Chair Cullison, and members of the House Health Committee,

Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States, and our Maryland supporters urge a favorable report on HB 625. Humane World for Animals was the lead advocate for the 2023 legislation (HB 626/ SB 560) that created the Human-Relevant Research Fund to create dedicated funding for scientific research that is based on human biology. The passage of this law set Maryland apart as a leader in prioritizing development and use of modern biotechnology.

HB 625 is a simple fix to that 2023 law that changes the agency responsible for collecting the funds from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). This legislative change was requested by MDH and we appreciate Secretary Atticks' willingness to have MDA take on this additional responsibility.

The 2023 law had strong bipartisan support and received favorable testimony from leading biotechnology companies developing and using non-animal approaches in Maryland and across the country including Emulate, Organovo Inc., MatTek Life Sciences, Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc., Propagenix Inc., and Hesperos, Inc.

Humane World for Animals urges a favorable report on HB 625 to ensure the successful implementation of the Human-Relevant Research Fund.

Thank you,

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Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States.
For questions, please contact Maryland State Director Stacey Volodin at svolodin@humaneworld.org