



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture Legislative Comment Date: February 17th, 2026

BILL NUMBER: HB 625
BILL TITLE: Human-Relevant Research Fund - Collection of Contributions -
Responsible Entity
MDA POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) respectfully submits this letter in support of *House Bill 625 - Human-Related Research Fund - Collection of Contributions - Responsible Entity*.

This bill redirects the authority from the Maryland Department of Health to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, to collect the contributions from research facilities that qualify under an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Form 7023, and grants authority to the department to file civil penalties for facilities that fail to pay the contribution. These funds are redirected to the Maryland Department of Commerce to support the Human-Relevant Research Fund, and support to develop human-relevant alternatives to using nonhuman animals in medical and product testing.

Redirecting authority to the Maryland Department of Agriculture reduces administrative burden for the State by leveraging existing relationships between MDA and the research facilities in Maryland. For these reasons, MDA supports HB 625 and respectfully requests a favorable report. MDA appreciates the consideration of the above information in the Committee's deliberations. If you have additional questions, please contact Harrison Palmer, MDA Chief of Staff at Harrisonb.palmer@maryland.gov or (410) 980-9887.