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By: **Delegate Hixson**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Regulation of the Horse Training Industry**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Regulation of the Horse Training  
 4 Industry; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for  
 5 staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate a chair of the  
 6 Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving compensation  
 7 for serving on the Task Force; authorizing reimbursement to members of the  
 8 Task Force for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain  
 9 report to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date;  
 10 providing for the termination of this Act; defining a certain term; and generally  
 11 relating to the Task Force on the Regulation of the Horse Training Industry.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) In this section, "horse training" and "horse trainer" do not include any  
 15 horse training or horse trainers over which the State Racing Commission has  
 16 oversight.

17 (b) There is a Task Force on the Regulation of the Horse Training Industry.

18 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
 20 of the Senate;

21 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
 22 the House;

23 (3) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's  
 24 designee; and

25 (4) the following four members, appointed by the Governor:

26 (i) three members with expertise in the horse training industry;

27 and

1 (ii) one member of the public with experience as a consumer of  
2 horse training services.

3 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

4 (e) The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall provide staff for  
5 the Task Force.

6 (f) A member of the Task Force:

7 (1) may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force; but

8 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
9 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

10 (g) The Task Force shall:

11 (1) identify the approximate number of:

12 (i) horse trainers in the State;

13 (ii) horses under the care of horse trainers in the State; and

14 (iii) consumers that interact with horse trainers in the State;

15 (2) study and evaluate the number of:

16 (i) consumers that have sustained injuries related to horse  
17 training in the State; and

18 (ii) horses that have sustained injuries under the care of horse  
19 trainers in the State;

20 (3) study and evaluate the potential impact of horse training regulations  
21 on the health and welfare of horses and consumers in the State;

22 (4) identify any existing requirements that horse trainers are required to  
23 fulfill before caring for horses or offering training services in the State;

24 (5) identify any standards for establishing fee agreements for providing  
25 horse training services in the State;

26 (6) identify any existing mechanism for verifying a horse trainer's  
27 assertion of previous experience caring for or training horses;

28 (7) identify existing State and federal programs, services, laws, and  
29 regulations that address the regulation of horse trainers;

30 (8) make specific recommendations regarding:

31 (i) the designation of a State agency to regulate horse trainers; and

1 (ii) potential regulatory standards that ensure the safety of horses  
2 and consumers in the State, including continuing education requirements, a practical  
3 examination, and the submission of a verifiable resume; and

4 (9) develop draft legislation and regulations concerning the  
5 establishment of State oversight and regulation of the horse training industry.

6 (h) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
7 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the  
8 General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2005.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
10 effect July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of  
11 December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
12 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.