
By: **Delegates Jennings, V. Clagett, Cluster, Frush, Glassman, Hogan, and Mayer**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Agriculture - Improper Transport of Horses - Prohibitions**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from transporting a horse in a vehicle that is
4 not constructed in a manner that at all times protects the health and well-being
5 of the horse being transported; establishing certain criteria for finding that a
6 vehicle is suitable for transporting a horse; providing a civil penalty for
7 transporting a horse in violation of this Act; defining certain terms; and
8 generally relating to the improper transport of horses.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Agriculture

11 Section 3-901 through 3-904, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 9.

12 Transporting Horses"

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Agriculture**

18 **SUBTITLE 9. TRANSPORTING HORSES.**

19 3-901.

20 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "TRANSPORT" MEANS TO CARRY A HORSE, CAUSE A HORSE
21 TO BE CARRIED, OR ALLOW A HORSE TO BE CARRIED IN A VEHICLE ON A HIGHWAY IN
22 THE STATE.

23 3-902.

24 (A) A PERSON MAY NOT TRANSPORT A HORSE IN A VEHICLE THAT IS NOT
25 DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED IN A MANNER THAT AT ALL TIMES PROTECTS THE
26 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE HORSE BEING TRANSPORTED.

1 (B) TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, AT A
2 MINIMUM, A VEHICLE USED TO TRANSPORT A HORSE SHALL:

3 (1) BE LIMITED TO ONE LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE VEHICLE WHERE
4 ANIMALS ARE CONFINED;

5 (2) HAVE AN INTERIOR HEIGHT SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW EACH HORSE
6 BEING TRANSPORTED TO STAND WITH ITS HEAD EXTENDED TO THE FULLEST
7 NORMAL UPRIGHT POSITION WITHOUT MAKING CONTACT WITH THE ROOF OR AN
8 OVERHEAD STRUCTURE;

9 (3) BE SPECIFICALLY MANUFACTURED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF
10 HORSES;

11 (4) HAVE DOORWAY HEIGHTS AND WIDTHS THAT ALLOW A HORSE TO
12 PASS THROUGH WITHOUT TOUCHING THE SIDES OF THE OPENINGS;

13 (5) BE EQUIPPED WITH RAMPS IF THE VERTICAL DISTANCE FROM THE
14 FLOOR TO THE COMPARTMENT CONTAINING THE HORSE IS GREATER THAN 15
15 INCHES;

16 (6) IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH RAMPS THAT SIT AT GREATER
17 THAN A 25 DEGREE ANGLE, HAVE RAMPS EQUIPPED WITH ANTISKID FLOORING AND
18 RAILS; AND

19 (7) CONTAIN ADEQUATE SPACE TO ENSURE THAT NO HORSE IS
20 CROWDED IN A WAY THAT IS LIKELY TO CAUSE INJURY.

21 3-903.

22 INSTEAD OF ANY OTHER PENALTY AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE, A
23 PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF:

24 (1) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, \$500 FOR EACH HORSE BEING
25 TRANSPORTED; AND

26 (2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, \$1,000 FOR EACH HORSE
27 BEING TRANSPORTED.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2006.