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

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2006

CHAPTER _____

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~~ 3-903, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle

12 "Subtitle 9. 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:

1 **Article - Agriculture**2 **SUBTITLE 9. TRANSPORTING HORSES.**

3 3-901.

4 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "TRANSPORT" MEANS TO CARRY A HORSE, CAUSE A HORSE
5 TO BE CARRIED, OR ALLOW A HORSE TO BE CARRIED IN A VEHICLE ON A HIGHWAY IN
6 THE STATE.

7 3-902.

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

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

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

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

19 (3) BE SPECIFICALLY MANUFACTURED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF
20 HORSES;

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

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

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

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

31 3-903.

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

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

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

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