

HOUSE BILL 973

M4

(9lr2954)

ENROLLED BILL

—*Environmental Matters/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs*—

Introduced by **Delegate V. Clagett**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Horse Industry Fund – Assessments on Commercial Equine Feed**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount of the assessment that the Secretary of
4 Agriculture may impose on commercial equine feed sold in the State;
5 prohibiting certain funds from reverting to the General Fund; and generally
6 relating to the Maryland Horse Industry Board and the authority of the
7 Secretary of Agriculture to impose assessments on commercial equine feed.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Agriculture

10 Section 2–708.2(a)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber committee amendments.

Bold italics indicate conference committee amendments.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – Agriculture
3 Section 2–708.2(e) and 6–107.2
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Agriculture**

9 2–708.2.

10 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Maryland Horse Industry Fund.

11 (e) At the end of a fiscal year, any unspent or unencumbered balance in the
12 Fund [shall] MAY NOT revert to the General Fund of the State[, in accordance with §§
13 7–302 and 7–303 of the State Finance and Procurement Article].

14 6–107.2.

15 (a) The Secretary may establish an assessment of up to [~~\$2~~] **\$6** per ton on
16 commercial equine feed that is sold in Maryland.

17 (b) The assessment shall be paid by the person registering the feed according
18 to the collection and reporting guidelines established by the Secretary by regulation.

19 (c) Any assessments collected shall be paid into the Maryland Horse
20 Industry Fund as provided in § 2–708.2 of this article.

21 (d) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to:

22 (1) Allow a person who purchases commercial equine feed in the State
23 to request reimbursement of any assessment that was paid on the feed; and

24 (2) Require that a purchaser of feed be notified, at the point of sale, of
25 the possibility of reimbursement.

26 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, any funds collected
27 under this section may be used only for education, research, and promotional
28 materials and activities intended to benefit the Maryland equine industry.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2009.