

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 345 (Senator Jennings)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Agriculture - Right to Engage in Equine Activities

This bill states that the General Assembly finds that (1) equine activities are a valued part of the State’s historical, cultural, and social heritage that provide unique recreational benefits to State residents and (2) equine activities play an important part in the State’s economy, as specified. The bill also expresses the General Assembly’s intent that residents of the State have a right to engage in equine activities subject to regulations and restrictions enacted under State law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: “Equine activities” are defined as including teaching equestrian skills, participating in equestrian competitions, exhibitions, or other displays of equestrian skills, and caring for, breeding, boarding, renting, riding, or training horses. “Horse” includes horses, donkeys, mules, and ponies.

Among other duties, the Maryland Horse Industry Board advises the Maryland Department of Agriculture regarding matters affecting the horse industry in the State, and the board carries out licensing, inspection, and enforcement relating to the equine industry. A person may not engage in the business of operating or maintaining any horse establishment, as

defined, unless the person has received a license issued by the board. The board is authorized to (1) suspend or revoke a license under specified conditions and (2) pursue criminal penalties or impose administrative penalties for violations, as specified.

However, horse racing and standardbred stables or farms using horses for working or cultivating the soil or herding or cutting livestock are not subject to regulation by the board. The Maryland Racing Commission regulates the harness and thoroughbred horse racing industry in the State, including seven off-track betting sites.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 116 (Delegate Love) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Legislative Services

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