

HOUSE BILL 162

M4
HB 9/20 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1107
CF 5lr1744

By: **Delegate Ziegler**

Requested: October 3, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Horse Industry Board – Breeding Stables and Horse Establishments –**
3 **Definitions**

4 FOR the purpose of defining the term “breeding stable” as it relates to licensure, inspection,
5 and regulation by the Maryland Horse Industry Board; altering the definition of
6 “horse establishment” to include a breeding stable; and generally relating to the
7 licensure, inspection, and regulation of horse establishments by the Maryland Horse
8 Industry Board.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Agriculture
11 Section 2–701
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Agriculture
16 Section 2–710, 2–713(a), 2–714(b), and 2–715
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Agriculture

21 2–701.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) “Board” means the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

2 (c) “Boarding stable” means an establishment that solicits or offers to the public
3 to stable horses.

4 **(D) “BREEDING STABLE” MEANS AN ESTABLISHMENT IN CONNECTION WITH**
5 **WHICH ONE OR MORE HORSES ARE OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC FOR**
6 **BREEDING OR AS THE PRODUCT OF BREEDING.**

7 **[(d)] (E)** “Equine activities” includes teaching equestrian skills, participating in
8 equestrian competitions, exhibitions or other displays of equestrian skills, and caring for,
9 breeding, boarding, renting, riding, or training horses.

10 **[(e)] (F)** “Horse” includes horses, donkeys, mules, and ponies.

11 **[(f)] (G)** “Horse establishment” means an establishment that solicits or offers to
12 the public any of the following services:

13 (1) A boarding stable;

14 **(2) A BREEDING STABLE;**

15 **[(2)] (3)** A lesson or rental stable; or

16 **[(3)] (4)** A rescue or sanctuary stable.

17 **[(g)] (H)** “Lesson or rental stable” means an establishment in connection with
18 which one or more horses are offered to the public to be let for hire, to be ridden or driven,
19 either with or without the furnishing of riding or driving instructions.

20 **[(h)] (I)** “Rescue or sanctuary stable” means an establishment that offers to the
21 public to shelter or keep one or more horses for humane purposes with or without
22 compensation and with or without tax-exempt status.

23 **[(i)] (J)** “Stable” means a place where one or more horses are under the care,
24 custody, and control of an operator.

25 2-710.

26 A person may not engage in the business of operating or maintaining any horse
27 establishment unless the person has received a license issued by the Board.

28 2-713.

29 (a) Each horse establishment licensed under this subtitle shall be inspected as
30 determined by the Board.

1 2-714.

2 (b) Each licensee shall display the license conspicuously on the premises where a
3 horse establishment is operated by the licensee.

4 2-715.

5 The Board may suspend or revoke the license issued to any licensee under this
6 subtitle, if the licensee:

7 (1) Fails to provide suitable food, water, and shelter for a horse under the
8 control of the licensee;

9 (2) Maintains an unsanitary or unfit horse establishment;

10 (3) Fails to provide suitable saddles, bridles, harnesses, and other tack or
11 equipment;

12 (4) Allows unfit horses to be used for riding or driving purposes;

13 (5) Refuses to allow a member of the Board to enter and inspect the
14 licensed premises;

15 (6) Obstructs any member of the Board in the performance of his duties;

16 (7) Commits an act of cruelty as defined in § 10-601 of the Criminal Law
17 Article, or allows the commission of an act of cruelty by any other person with relation to
18 any horse under the control of the licensee;

19 (8) Does any other action that, in the opinion of the Board, taking into
20 consideration the welfare of the horses under the control of the licensee, shows that the
21 licensee is unfit to operate a horse establishment; or

22 (9) Fails to comply with the rules and regulations of the Board after
23 receiving a license.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2025.