

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 225

(Chair, Appropriations Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Agriculture)

Appropriations

Maryland Horse Industry Board - Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) by 10 years, from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2036. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues and expenditures for the board are maintained from FY 2027 through 2036. The FY 2027 budget as introduced includes \$435,471 in special funds and \$12,298 in federal funds for the operation of the board.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: MHIB, within MDA, is responsible for licensing and inspecting horse stables, advising MDA regarding matters affecting the horse industry in the State, supporting research related to equine health and related issues, promoting the development and uses of horses in the State, creating public awareness of the value of equine activities as they relate to the preservation of green space and agricultural land, and developing and disseminating information concerning the horse industry. The board currently regulates more than 800 licensed stables.

The operations of the board are primarily supported by the Maryland Horse Industry Fund, which receives revenues from licensing and inspection fees collected by the board and an assessment on commercial equine feed sold in the State. The revenues generated from the commercial equine feed assessment may only be used for education, research, and promotional materials and activities intended to benefit the Maryland equine industry. Money in the fund in general must be used to fulfill the statutory duties of the board.

MHIB is scheduled to terminate July 1, 2026. Chapter 170 of 2006 extended the termination date of the board from July 1, 2006, to July 1, 2016. Chapter 52 of 2014 further extended the termination date of the board from July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2026.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 2026
jg/lgc

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Maryland Horse Industry Board - Sunset Extension

BILL NUMBER: HB 225

PREPARED BY: Cassie Shirk

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

 X WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL
BUSINESS

OR

 WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS