



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 9 – “Agriculture – Maryland Egg Law – Revisions” – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Pinsky:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill 9 entitled “Agriculture – Maryland Egg Law – Revisions.” This bill would change the definition of “shell eggs” to include eggs from all poultry, not just chickens, and adds a definition of “poultry.” SB 9 also updates the requirements for the production, storage, and transport of shell eggs to prevent infection by *Salmonella enteritidis* and other pathogens. Additionally, SB 9 clarifies the Secretary of Agriculture’s authority to enter facilities, examine shell eggs, and take other enforcement actions in accordance with State statute.

Food service facilities are regulated by the Department and must obtain food from an approved source. Shell eggs must comply with the relevant requirements of Agriculture Article §4-311 in order to be considered an approved source. The changes made by SB 9 will greatly clarify that all poultry shell eggs (including duck and quail) are subject to these requirements and can be deemed an approved source. The Department therefore supports SB 9 as it will reduce confusion; align statute, regulations, and practice; and strengthen pathogenic controls for shell eggs. This bill would not have a fiscal or operational impact on the Department.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary