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Transportation and the Environment
Subcommittee
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness
Joint Committee on Pensions

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 412 – PURSE DEDICATION ACCOUNT – MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY FUND –
RETIRED RACEHORSES
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 12, 2020
Delegate Carol L. Krimm
WHAT DOES THIS BILL PROPOSE?**

HB 412 requires that money from the Purse Dedication Account (PDA) be allocated to the Maryland Horse Industry Fund to fund and award grants to be used in the care, retraining and promotion of retired racehorses; non-profits accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance; Sanctuary Thoroughbreds; and support for equine-assisted therapy programs using Sanctuary Thoroughbreds.

The bill has no overall impact on state finances.

The PDA, which provides extra funds for prizes at race tracks, received approximately \$65.9 million in fiscal year 2019 from Video Lottery Terminal proceeds. We are asking for .5 percent of that money, or roughly \$329,000. The Board of Revenue Estimates projects that the revenue this account receives will increase over the next two years as well, which would then increase this allocation. These funds would go a long way toward helping these former racehorses that have played a significant role in our state's strong tradition with the horse industry and Preakness.

The bill requires that certain unspent or unencumbered balances in the fund revert to the PDA and provide for the reversion of unused funds.

Despite what retired racehorses have contributed to our economy many that are no longer profitable end up in slaughterhouses for consumption. When the horses are racing there is unlimited money for them to gain and maintain peak performance on the track. But when they run out of steam or get injured there is no money.

Aftercare for these horses include food, bedding, dental, veterinarian and blacksmith services. Former thoroughbreds are amazing athletes and intelligent. They can be retrained for jumping events, barrel racing, cattle round ups, dressage, polo and trail riding. Promoting these horses also involves funding.

This bill offers a solution and financial assistance to those who care, retrain and promote retired thoroughbreds that have finished their racing careers. Passing this bill will make a tremendous difference.

Thank you for your attention.