



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: February 17, 2023

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 516

SHORT TITLE: AGRICULTURE- USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS- REPORTING DEADLINES

MDA POSITION: SUPPORT

HB 516 would establish a new reporting deadline for the Antimicrobial Drug report. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) understands the importance of reporting antimicrobial drugs used in cattle, swine, and poultry. As the judicious use of antimicrobials in the agriculture industry in Maryland continues to grow, MDA believes it's necessary to have an accurate report concerning the use of medically important antibiotics.

In 2019 the legislature passed House Bill 652-Use of Antimicrobial Drugs. This legislation required a February 1 reporting date for veterinarians to report prescriptions of medically important antimicrobials from the previous year. The bill also set the deadline for the report from MDA to be completed by February 1. The bill also required that the total number of animals raised during the previous calendar year, categorized by species and production class. The reporting requirements present a challenge to provide accurate information in the report.

MDA is very supportive of the reporting date change. The later reporting date will allow for the department to obtain prescriptions from non-compliant veterinarians in a timely manner for the report. The later reporting date will also have the current year's data for animals raised on farm rather than the data reported from one year prior. Lastly, the new reporting date would increase the accuracy of the data in the antimicrobial report. Therefore, MDA respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 389.

If you have additional questions, please contact Steve Connelly, Deputy Secretary, at steve.connelly@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5881.