



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

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One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 279

Real Property – Actions for Possession – Pet Protections

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

MHC applauds the legislative intent behind SB 279 and welcomes additional protections for Maryland's dogs and cats. Many horse owners are also dog lovers, and many horse barns are occupied by beloved barn cats.

We are concerned, however, that SB 279 as written does not extend the residential eviction protections to equines. Many private equine owners live on leased properties and keep their equines with them on that leased property. These properties are often small farmettes, 5 acres or fewer in size, and are the primary residences of the equine's owners. When tenants are evicted from these types of properties, their equines face the same risks as dogs or cats.

MHC supports amending HB 102 to include "equine livestock" as well as dogs and cats. We suggest the following amendments:



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AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 279
(First Reading)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after "pet" insert "and equine livestock;" in line 4 after "pets" insert "and equine livestock;" in line 10, after "pet" insert "and/or equine livestock;" in line 12, after "pet" insert "and/or equine livestock;" in line 13, after "pet" insert "and equine livestock;" and in lines 21-22, after "Pet" and before "Protections" insert "and Equine Livestock."

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 17, after "PET" and before "PROTECTIONS" insert "AND EQUINE LIVESTOCK."

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, after line 25, insert
"(E) 'EQUINE LIVESTOCK' MEANS HORSES, DONKEYS, MULES AND PONIES."

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 3, in line 10, after "PETS" insert "AND EQUINE LIVESTOCK;" and in line 23, after "PET" insert "AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK."



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AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 4, in line 5, after “PET” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK:” in line 7, after “PET,” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK;” in line 14, after “PET” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK;” in line 17, after “PET” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK HAS BEEN;” in line 22, after “PET” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK;” in line 23, after “PET” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK;” and in line 25, after “PET” insert “AND/OR EQUINE LIVESTOCK.”

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With the above amendments, MHC urges a favorable report on SB 279.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL
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