

Date: March 21, 2024
Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Bill Title: State Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board - Sunset Repeal
Re: **House Bill 242 - FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

This bill concerns the Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board, a nine-member board originally established in 1957 that advises the Commissioner of Labor and Industry concerning adoption of safety standards for amusement attractions at amusement parks, carnivals, and other establishments throughout the State. The composition of the Board draws from park owners, carnival owners, State or county fair administrators, engineers, and members of the consuming public. (See Business Regulations Article, Section 3-304).

The Advisory Board has consistently been active in ensuring public safety. Most recently, the Board developed and recommended adoption of safety standards for the State's trampoline parks. Also within the last year, the Board has developed standards to govern safety on "challenge" courses (such as outdoor rope courses).

This bill, as originally submitted by the Maryland Department of Labor, would have extended by ten (10) years the sunset date for the Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board, from 2024 through 2034. In the version passed by the House, however, the extension language was struck, and the provision for sunset (Section 3-315) was repealed.

This Advisory Board is instrumental to the effective functioning of our State's amusement ride safety program, and to our meaningful oversight to ensure that the public can enjoy these attractions without undue risk. The Department supports legislation that would continue the Advisory Board, whether in the original form, as passed by the House, or with a different mechanism to ensure the oversight the General Assembly believes appropriate while permitting the Board to continue its productive work on behalf of the State's citizens.

The Department respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee on HB 242.