



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 278

**Department of Agriculture - Licensing, Registration, Fees and Penalties, and Regulation**

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee – January 23, 2024

**FAVORABLE**

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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.

The Maryland horse industry owes a great deal to the hard work of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB). Our industry is a \$3 billion industry and the recreational and competition sectors account for the largest share of the industry's economic impact. MHIB's licensing and inspection services are critical to ensuring the health and welfare of our horse population and to protecting the industry's reputation as one of the epicenters of equestrian sports in the United States. MHIB needs as many tools as are available to ensure boarding and lessons barns stay licensed and inspected, and to encourage all covered operations to come into compliance with the regulations.

MHC urges a favorable report on SB 278.

Respectfully submitted,

**THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL**  
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