

**SB0745.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dr. Robert Silcox

Position: FAV



## Hickory Veterinary Hospital

534 E. Jarrettsville Rd  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
(410) 838-7797  
*www.HickoryVet.net*

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February 27, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am submitting written testimony today to ask for a favorable outcome for SB0745. As a partner of Hickory Veterinary Hospital in Harford County Maryland, we have been directly affected by the Veterinary workforce shortage in Maryland. In recent years we have seen an increase in demand for veterinary services at Hickory Veterinary Hospital. This has resulted in extended wait times to get appointments for my clients and increased pressure to meet those demands by my current veterinary staff. I also routinely hear of wait times as long as 8 to 24 hours at our local emergency veterinary hospitals that provide services overnight and on weekends. My practice has been trying to hire an additional veterinarian for over 3 years.

SB0745 will help to address this workforce shortage in the fastest possible path. By increasing the number of seats at Maryland's college of veterinary medicine, the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, from 30 to 42 for the 2025 admissions class, the number of Maryland veterinary students graduating from VMCVM will increase by 40% by 2029. Expanding the number of seats is not only the fastest path to addressing the workforce shortage, but it is also the most fiscally responsible. This path will not be faced with the financial challenges or accreditation challenges of starting a new program. VMCVM has been an excellent steward of the funding it receives from Maryland for the last 40 years and delivers a fully accredited curriculum of the highest quality to Maryland resident students. Providing access to Maryland students through our local state school enhances the likelihood that they will live and work in Maryland because of the ties they already have to the state.

As you are likely aware, there is a proposed, second Maryland veterinary college at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. I do not believe that SB0745 and the proposed veterinary college at UMES are in conflict. SB0745 addresses an immediate concern for workforce shortage. The vision for UMES is to improve diversity and access to the veterinary profession for minorities and underserved. My understanding is that UMES plan is to have a nationwide application pool to improve diversity across the country and not just in Maryland. I am fully supportive of the effort UMES is making to improve access to the veterinary profession and have enjoyed reading about their progress in recent press releases. I do temper my hopefulness for the success of this program with the realization that accreditation and achieving a first graduating class takes time and is not guaranteed.

Thank you for your attention and please give SB0745 a favorable outcome.

Robert D. Silcox DVM  
Hickory Veterinary Hospital  
410-838-7797 x 2  
silcoxsvm@comcast.net

**SB745\_fav\_HSUS PAWS MFVA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Position: FAV



**February 28, 2024**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**SB745**

***Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine - Funding***  
**FAVORABLE**

The Humane Society of the United States, Maryland Votes for Animals, and the Professional Animal Workers of Maryland urge a favorable report on SB745. Increasing the number of veterinarians able to graduate from our local program will help alleviate the veterinary shortage in Maryland, and is a worthwhile investment.

Veterinarians are facing historic challenges on several fronts as the profession struggles to provide access to care to animals in Maryland and nationwide. Staffing shortages are ubiquitous, with a dearth of veterinarians and veterinary technicians available to fill open positions. A recent study by Mars Veterinary Health found that there is a 16 percent shortage of veterinarians needed to meet national animal care needs and, if the current trends continue, as many as 75 million pets nationwide will be without veterinary care by 2030. In Maryland, that has resulted in pet owners waiting weeks to get veterinary appointments for their pets and the situation is even more dire in rural areas where clinics finding it even harder to attract veterinary professionals for open positions.

While this veterinary crisis is impacting all pet owners and caregivers, the impact is most profound on our shelters and rescues. Shelters that are fortunate enough to have a staff position for an on-staff veterinarian struggle to attract and retain qualified candidates, and shelters that rely on volunteer hours from veterinarians are having an increasingly difficult time finding volunteers. The lack of veterinarians providing support to our shelters impacts not just shelter animals, it impacts constituents and local government budgets.

This is a modest investment for a significant service. There's a critical shortage of qualified veterinary professionals and that shortage is expected to get worse over time. The investment in funding this program is countered by the cost-saving for local governments in ensuring shelters and rescues can continue to provide care to people and pets without outsourcing care or having to accept surrendered animals because their owners could not receive care. We urge a favorable report on SB 745.

*For more information contact Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Maryland State Director*  
[jbevandangel@humanesociety.org](mailto:jbevandangel@humanesociety.org) | C 410-303-7954

# **SB745 February 2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jo-Ann Chason

Position: FAV

February 26, 2024

SB745

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you asking for a favorable report on SB745 (HB1494).

During my 40 plus years raising livestock and horses in Baltimore and Harford Counties, I have witnessed firsthand the drastic decline in available veterinarians for on farm livestock visits. When I was very young and starting my 4-H livestock projects, the same vet that we took our family dogs to would also do farm visits and was available for livestock emergencies 7 days a week including nights and weekends. There were several vets in the community, if one wasn't available there was a host of others to call in an emergency. This is not the situation today. I am aware of only one large animal (general livestock) veterinary clinic in my area and very few equine vets. The effect of not enough vets results in delayed visits and at times the delay in care the results in negative outcomes that could have been avoided by more prompt care. Additionally, this can cause serious economic impact especially for a smaller operations.

The bottom line is that we need more qualified livestock (including equine) veterinarians throughout the state now. This legislation would provide twelve additional seats to Maryland students this year. More livestock veterinarians is necessary today! This legislation can always be reevaluated in the future should an accredited veterinary school open in the state of Maryland. In the meantime, the need is now to support farmers and livestock owners. I ask that in consideration of Maryland's farmers and livestock owners, you return a favorable report for SB745.

Respectfully,

Jo-Ann Chason

jo.ann.chason@gmail.com

443-807-1007

**MDVMA Favorable SB745 Combined 2.28.24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marisa Francis

Position: FAV



## FAVORABLE REPORT – SB0745

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, we urge a favorable report of SB745. Enhancing the access Marylanders have to veterinary care is a critical issue for the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA).

The MDVMA in cooperation with the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) is seeking to increase funding to add twelve (12) additional seats for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. Throughout the nation, the veterinary industry is suffering from a significant shortage of veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is projecting a shortage of approximately 15,000 veterinarians by 2030. Here in Maryland, though we do not have exact figures, we do know that there are substantial shortages that are affecting rural, suburban, and urban areas. Almost every practice owner we associate with is in dire need of new doctors, but the supply is not there to fill vacant positions. As a result, there have been many issues in being able to provide timely veterinary care to both large and small animals in need of medical or surgical care throughout the state.

### **History of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)**

What many Maryland residents, public and elected officials do not know is that Maryland has its own in-state veterinary school in partnership with Virginia. Founded in 1980, The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) has campuses at the University of Maryland, College Park as well as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. In addition, there is a third location supporting equine services in Leesburg, VA. VMCVM is one of only 33 accredited veterinary schools in the United States.

The VMCVM was established through a partnership between the states of Virginia and Maryland for a regional veterinary school to benefit both states. Both states agreed to a funding model formula that subsidizes the cost of attending veterinary school to make it similar to in-state tuition. In the late 1980's, the number of seats for Maryland students was reduced due to funding that was frozen from the State of Maryland at the 1986 level for the school. As a result, Maryland was not paying its proportional share per student and was at risk of losing further opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. After a couple years of negotiations, in 1993, the Maryland legislature passed SB210 (the "Amoss Bill") which provided guaranteed Maryland financial support to be prorated using the same formula used by the State of Virginia.

The MDVMA is the primary stakeholder for the veterinary community in Maryland. Members of MDVMA have been working with the leadership at the VMCVM for the past 25 years to identify strategies to expand the opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school.

### **Enrollment at VMCVM**

Enrollment at VMCVM has remained relatively stagnant despite the massive population growth our region has experienced. In 1980, 24 seats for students from Maryland were funded for each year. This figure increased to



30 students from Maryland in 1982 and remains at that number today. Currently, each class attending veterinary school includes 50 students from Virginia, 30 students from Maryland, 6 students from West Virginia, and 40 at-large spots for students from outside of the three states.

### **Diversity at VMCVM**

VMCVM stands in the top 25% of established veterinary schools regarding diversity of the student body and has a robust program in recruiting qualified minority candidates. 27.5% of VMCVM students are from underrepresented minorities. Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges. 13% of students are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible. Please see the included report.

### **Current Workforce Challenges and the Need for More Veterinarians in General Practice**

Opportunities for veterinary graduates have significantly increased in recent past. The recent growth of the profession in more diversified fields such as specialty practice, shelter medicine, and urgent care has reduced the number of graduates working general practice. In addition, veterinarians are in demand in both the private and public sector due to their training in public health matters and food biosecurity. Veterinarians are now able to secure positions within governmental agencies both at the state and federal level, the pharmaceutical industry, food sciences, agriculture, and other public health agencies such as, USDA, FDA, Human Health and One Health all of which contribute to the shortage of veterinarians in general practice. As a result, the supply of available veterinarians has not kept pace with the increase in opportunities.

### **Funding for Additional Seats at VMCVM does NOT Conflict with the Mission of UMES**

We want to address explicitly in this testimony that this funding is in no way an attempt to detract from the development of a separate veterinary institution at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). UMES has made clear it is not attempting to be a state school for Maryland but rather to fulfill a national and international service of recruitment to enhance diversity within the veterinary profession. **This is a mission that we welcome and are in full support of.** Furthermore, UMES has made clear that it is not seeking Maryland state funding to fulfill its mission; therefore, this request to fund our in-state school, VMCVM, **is not in direct conflict of the goals of the UMES mission nor does it create redundant funding request from Maryland taxpayers.**

We offer sincere wishes for success of the program and have made it clear that we will work with them to grow their program and assist in any way we can; however, there remain questions about how this may affect the long-term accreditation of the institution which is directly related to the success of students matriculating through the system including passage rates of the North American Veterinary Medical Licensing Examination (NAVLE). As such, **it is critical to support the in-state institution that already exists to provide accredited education to Maryland residents.**

While Marylanders may benefit from the UMES program there is no inherent obligation for UMES to specifically enhance access to Maryland residents. VMCVM has an excellent track record for diversity and inclusion, and we believe it is in the best interest of our state to embrace the opportunity to guarantee greater access to in-state tuition rates for Maryland residents by increasing the available number of seats at our existing in-state school.

By allocating state funding to our present in-state institution, we can capture an opportunity to ensure a successful, long-standing tradition of affordable access to a veterinary education from an institution that is already fully accredited and has a proven track record and system that receives complete support from the AVMA Council on Education.

### **VMCVM Increases Access to Veterinary Care Within the State of Maryland**

VMCVM has been an excellent steward of the funding it receives from the state of Maryland by delivering a fully accredited curriculum to Maryland resident students, specifically. Providing access to Maryland students at our in-state school enhances the likelihood that Marylanders will maintain access to veterinarians living and working within the state because the students have ties directly to the state. When students are forced to travel long distances to out of state institutions to obtain their veterinary degree it increases the likelihood that they will take residence in other states upon graduation. Some out of state schools even entice students with the offering of in-state tuition if the student formally changes their residency status.

Through the funding of 12 additional seats at VMCVM, we have an opportunity to strengthen this partnership and enhance access to a veterinary education for Maryland students and we feel strongly **this is the most likely path toward increasing access to veterinary care within the state.**

The Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, on behalf of its members, urges a favorable review of SB745.



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

*Office of the Dean and Director  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
University of Maryland Extension*

1296 Symons Hall  
College Park, Maryland 20742-5551  
301.405.2072 TEL  
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February 22, 2024

On behalf of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in College Park, MD and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, I am writing this letter to voice our support for SB745/HB1494: Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine-Funding.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM), in cooperation with the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA), is seeking to increase funding to add twelve (12) additional seats for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. Throughout the nation, the veterinary industry is suffering from a significant shortage of veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is projecting a shortage of approximately 15,000 veterinarians by 2030. Here in Maryland, though we do not have exact figures, we do know that there are substantial shortages that are affecting rural, suburban, and urban areas. Almost every practice owner we associate with is in dire need of new doctors, but the supply is not there to fill vacant positions. As a result, there have been many issues in being able to provide timely veterinary care to both large and small animals in need of medical or surgical care throughout the state.

## **History of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)**

What many Maryland residents, public and elected officials do not know is that Maryland has its own in-state veterinary school in partnership with Virginia. Founded in 1980, The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) has campuses at the University of Maryland, College Park as well as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. In addition, there is a third location supporting equine services in Leesburg, VA. VMCVM is one of only 33 accredited veterinary schools in the United States.

The VMCVM was established through a partnership between the states of Virginia and Maryland for a regional veterinary school to benefit both states. Both states agreed to a funding model formula that subsidizes the cost of attending veterinary school to make it similar to in-state tuition. In the late 1980's, the number of seats for Maryland students was reduced due to funding that was frozen from the State of Maryland at the 1986 level for the school. As a result, Maryland was not paying its proportional share per student and was at risk of losing further opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. After a couple years of negotiations, in 1993, the Maryland legislature passed SB210 (the "Amoss Bill") which provided guaranteed Maryland financial support to be prorated using the same formula used by the State of Virginia.

## **Enrollment at VMCVM**

Enrollment for Maryland students at VMCVM has remained stagnant despite the massive population growth our region has experienced. In 1980, 24 seats for students from Maryland were

funded for each year. This figure increased to 30 students from Maryland in 1982 and remains at that number today. Currently, each class attending veterinary school includes 50 students from Virginia, 30 students from Maryland, 6 students from West Virginia, and 40 at-large spots for students from outside of those states.

### **Diversity at VMCVM**

VMCVM stands in the top 25% of established veterinary schools regarding diversity of the student body and has a robust program in recruiting qualified minority candidates. 27.5% of VMCVM students are from underrepresented minorities. Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges. 13% of students attending VMCVM are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible.

### **Current Workforce Challenges and the Need for More Veterinarians in General Practice**

Opportunities for veterinary graduates have significantly increased in recent past. The recent growth of the profession in more diversified fields such as specialty practice, shelter medicine, and urgent care has reduced the number of graduates working general practice. In addition, veterinarians are in demand in both the private and public sector due to their training in public health matters and food biosecurity. Veterinarians are now able to secure positions within governmental agencies both at the state and federal level, the pharmaceutical industry, food sciences, agriculture, and other public health agencies such as, USDA, FDA, Human Health and One Health--all of which contribute to the shortage of veterinarians in general practice. As a result, the supply of available veterinarians has not kept pace with the increase in opportunities available.

### **VMCVM Increases Access to Veterinary Care Within the State of Maryland**

VMCVM has been an excellent steward of the funding it receives from the State of Maryland by delivering a fully accredited curriculum to Maryland resident students, specifically. Providing access to Maryland students at our in-state school enhances the likelihood that Marylanders will maintain access to veterinarians living and working within the state because those students have ties directly to our state. When students are forced to travel long distances to out-of-state institutions to obtain their veterinary degree, it increases the likelihood that they will take residence in other states upon graduation. Some out-of-state schools even entice students with the offering of in-state tuition if the student formally changes their residency status.

Affordability is one of the largest barriers to veterinary medicine for students pursuing a veterinary degree. By increasing our support for more Maryland students able to pay an in-state tuition, it substantially improves the debt load of a veterinary student. In turn, this allows our school to be more competitive nationally in keeping our highly qualified Maryland residents closer to home.

In conclusion, I encourage a favorable report on SB745/HB1494. Through the funding of 12 additional seats at the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, we have the opportunity to immediately enhance access to an affordable veterinary education for Maryland residents. This measure alone will not resolve all our veterinary workforce challenges. We will continue to explore other opportunities to enhance and grow our veterinary degree programs to further benefit the State of Maryland. However, by taking advantage of our state's existing successful veterinary school, approval of this funding will provide the most fiscally responsible and immediate solution towards increasing access to veterinary care and professionals throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Beyrouty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Craig Beyrouty  
Dean and Director

February 27, 2024

Maryland legislators,

On behalf of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, I am writing this letter to voice support for SB745/HB1494: Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine-Funding.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM), in cooperation with the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA), is seeking an increase in funding to add twelve (12) additional seats for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. Throughout the nation, the veterinary industry is suffering from a significant shortage of veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is projecting a shortage of approximately 15,000 veterinarians by 2030. As a result, there have been many issues in the provision of timely and knowledgeable veterinary care to both large and small animals in need of medical or surgical care throughout the state of Maryland.

### **History of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)**

What many Maryland residents, public and elected officials may not understand clearly is that Maryland has its own in-state veterinary school in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Founded in 1980, The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) has campuses at the University of Maryland, College Park as well as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. In addition, there is an additional clinical location supporting equine services in Leesburg, VA. At the current date, VMCVM is one of only 31 fully accredited veterinary schools graduating students within the United States.

The VMCVM was established through a partnership between the states of Virginia and Maryland for a regional veterinary school to benefit both states. Both states agreed to a funding model formula that subsidizes the tuition and fees paid by students attending veterinary school to make it similar to in-state tuition. In the 2023-24 academic year, this high-quality experiential education is accessed by Maryland students via resident tuition and mandatory fees that total \$28,156 annually. Our 2022-23 resident tuition ranked seventh from the lowest among the 31 US colleges of veterinary medicine graduating veterinarians. Tuition and mandatory fees for residents at these veterinary colleges averaged \$35,561. In a profession that is clearly impacted by a notably high debt-to-income ratio due to educational costs, I would hope that Maryland would increase access to veterinary medical education that has a proven record of success in training practice-ready and practice-qualified veterinarians at a cost that is well below the nation's average in-state tuition.

In the late 1980's, the number of seats for Maryland students was reduced due to funding that was frozen from the State of Maryland at the 1986 level for the school. As a result, Maryland was at risk of losing further opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. After a couple years of negotiations, in 1993, the Maryland legislature passed SB210 (the "Amoss Bill") which provided guaranteed Maryland financial support to be prorated using the same formula as the formula used by the State of Virginia.

### **Enrollment at VMCVM**

Enrollment for Maryland students at VMCVM has remained stable for many years despite the massive population growth experienced by Maryland and the Region. In 1980, 24 seats for students in each veterinary class from Maryland were funded each year. That figure increased to 30 students in each veterinary class from Maryland in 1982 and remains at that number today. Currently, each class attending veterinary school includes 50 students from Virginia, 30 students from Maryland, 6 students from West Virginia, and 40 at-large spots for students from outside of those states.

### **Quality of Veterinary Education**

With the support of a strong foundation by two states, the VMCVM's 2023 graduates successfully passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) prior to graduation at a rate of 96% which was 10% above the national average. Graduates must pass this licensing exam to be able to practice veterinary medicine in any state in the United States. This demonstration of proficiency in foundational knowledge coupled with survey results from alumni and initial employers provides confidence in the quality of the veterinary medical education currently provided at VMCVM. Additional advancement in the quality of this education is being pursued through an ongoing curricular review that involves representatives from multiple departments focused on strengthening the curriculum delivered during the latter years.

### **Diversity at VMCVM**

VMCVM stands in the top 25% of established veterinary schools regarding diversity of the student body and has a robust program in recruiting qualified minority candidates. 27.5% of VMCVM students are from underrepresented minorities. Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges. 13% of students attending VMCVM are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible.

### **VMCVM Increases Access to Veterinary Care Within the State of Maryland**

VMCVM has been an excellent steward of the funding it receives from the State of Maryland by delivering a fully accredited curriculum to Maryland resident students, specifically. Providing access to Maryland students at our in-state school enhances the likelihood that Marylanders will maintain access to veterinarians living and working within the state because those students have ties directly to our state. When students are forced to travel long distances to out-of-state institutions to obtain their veterinary degree, it increases the likelihood that they will take residence in other states upon

graduation. I was pleased to see that a recent analysis of first destination sites for 2020 to 2022 Maryland residents graduating from VMCVVM revealed that they were 41 times more likely to accept initial employment in Maryland as compared to other US graduates. As a point of interest, that relative likelihood was very slightly higher for Maryland than for Virginia residents at VMCVVM accepting initial employment in Virginia (relative likelihood = 39X). Understanding the quality of the available veterinary medical education at VMCVVM, the relative cost of this education for Maryland residents, and the likelihood that these graduates return to Maryland for initial employment, an investment in Maryland seats at the VMCVVM appears to be a logical and rational choice to address needs for additional veterinary medical care in the state of Maryland.

In conclusion, I encourage a favorable report on SB745/HB1494. Through the funding of 12 additional seats at the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, the State of Maryland has the opportunity to immediately enhance access to a proven, high-quality, affordable veterinary education for Maryland residents. This measure alone will not resolve all of the state's veterinary workforce challenges. Other options should be considered and explored to enhance and grow veterinary degree programs to further benefit the State of Maryland. However, by taking advantage of the state's existing and established successful veterinary school, approval of this funding will provide the most fiscally responsible and immediately impactful solution towards increasing access to clinical veterinary care and veterinary professionals throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Daniel Givens".

M. Daniel Givens  
Dean



# Empowering Maryland's Veterinary Future

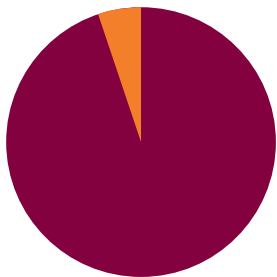
In Maryland, veterinarians are pivotal not only in treating a growing number of household pets but also in contributing to food security, infectious disease prevention, cancer research, and public health.



## Educational Excellence and Impact

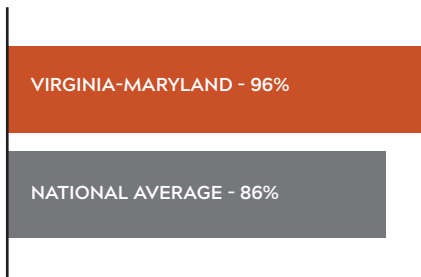
Annually, Maryland sends 30 new students to the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, a collaboration between Maryland and Virginia established in 1979.

With its three teaching hospitals and proven curriculum, the college provides a high-caliber education, equipping students to excel in private clinics and contribute significantly to food security, infectious disease control, cancer research, and regional public health.



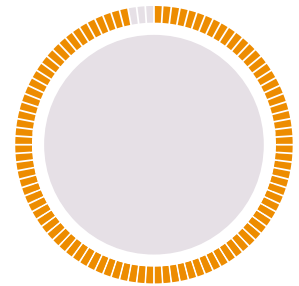
**94.9%**

GRADUATION RATE  
2020-2023



**96%**

2023 LICENSING  
EXAM PASS RATE



**97%**

CLASS OF 2023  
JOB PLACEMENT



## Commitment to Diversity

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes that **a diverse student body is a strategic advantage**. Diversity enriches the educational experience, fosters innovation, and prepares students to meet the complex needs of a diverse clientele in their professional lives.

- *27.5% of VA-MD students are from underrepresented minorities.*
- *Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges.*
- *13% of students are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible.*

## Local and Global Influence

While Virginia-Maryland graduates serve nationwide and around the globe, many also return to practice in Maryland.

The college is a critical investment for Maryland. It underpins public health, agricultural stability, and economic productivity. Its focus on diversity and practical training creates a competent, empathetic veterinary workforce, making it an invaluable asset to the state.

**The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a proven, effective, and excellent investment for public dollars and Maryland's greatest resource, its people.**

# Initial Employment in State of Residence

## Classes of 2020 to 2023

### Initial Employment of VM CVM Grads in State of Residence

Numerator = VM grads employed in State  
Denominator = Total # of Seats

West Virginia =  $11/24 = 46\%$   
Virginia =  $145/200 = 73\%$   
Maryland =  $42/120 = 35\%$

### VM CVM Grads of All New Grads Initially Employed in State

Numerator = VM grads employed in State  
Denominator = All grads employed in State

West Virginia =  $11/37 = 30\%$   
Virginia =  $145/320 = 45\%$   
Maryland =  $42/122 = 34\%$

# Relative Likelihood (Risk) of Employment in VA and MD: VMCVM Versus Other Schools

## Initial Employment of Cumulative Classes 2020 to 2023

### Virginia

Employed  
in VA:  
VMCVM

145 of 200  
(73%)  
VMCVM  
grads chose  
VA

Employed  
in VA:  
Other  
Schools

175/ 9,948  
(1.8%) Other  
Schools grads  
chose VA

Relative Risk  
of Initial  
Employment  
in VA

VMCVM  
grads **41**  
times more  
likely to  
choose VA  
than other  
school grads

### Maryland

Employed  
in MD:  
VMCVM

42 of 120  
(35%)  
VMCVM  
grads chose  
MD

Employed  
in MD:  
Other  
Schools

80/ 10,032  
(0.08%) Other  
Schools grads  
chose MD

Relative Risk  
of Initial  
Employment  
in MD

VMCVM  
grads **44**  
times more  
likely to  
choose MD  
than other  
school grads

**VMCVM Maryland Application Pool**

<i>Application Year</i>	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
<i>Class</i>	<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
<b>Number Applied</b>	132	145	156	142	179	183	161
<b>Gender</b>							
Females	113	120	132	129	164	165	140
Males	19	24	24	13	15	16	19
Decline to State	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
White	100	103	114	108	113	118	94
Black	9	12	14	12	25	25	19
Asian	11	5	5	5	8	6	5
Hispanic	2	2	6	5	11	17	28
Multi-ethnic	6	18	17	12	19	16	11
Unknown	4	5	0	0	3	1	4
<b>First Generation</b>	18	34	35	46	44	50	
<b>Received a Pell Grant</b>	17	24	34	22	30	46	44
<b>Number Interviewed</b>	69	80	63	72	0	84	84
<b>Gender</b>							
Females	57	68	48	64	N/A	77	77
Males	12	12	15	8	N/A	7	6
Declined to State	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
White	55	60	49	59	N/A	66	54
Black	4	3	5	3	N/A	4	6
Asian	4		2	3	N/A	5	3
Hispanic	2	1	2	2	N/A	2	7
Multi-ethnic	4	12	5	5	N/A	6	12
Unknown	0	4	0	0	N/A	1	2
<b>First Generation</b>	8	17	11	24	N/A		
<b>Received a Pell Grant</b>	8	11	11	13	N/A		5

<b>VMCVM Overall Pool</b>	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
	<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
At Large	1226	1228	1338	963	1270	1235	1126
Virginia	209	245	293	311	368	415	362
Maryland	132	145	156	142	179	184	161
West Virginia	38	38	45	45	60	65	43
<b>Total Apps</b>	1605	1656	1832	1461	1877	1899	1692
<b>Gender</b>							
	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
	<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
Females	1346	1405	1563	1250	1655	1664	1479
Males	253	245	266	209	216	223	202
Decline to State	6	6	3	2	6	12	11
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
	<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
White	1190	1203	1338	1098	1338	1327	1210
Black	61	59	69	71	132	111	79
Asian	94	99	83	63	79	104	81
Hispanic	76	55	70	47	188	240	223
American Indian	6	1	2	3	3	2	2
Multi-ethnic	117	173	242	167	111	96	76
Unknown	61	66	28	12	26	19	21
<b>First Generation</b>	263	440	506	412	537	532	
<b>Received a Pell Grant</b>	401	400	470	369	513	530	470

**SB745.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tim Perry

Position: FAV



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chairman  
Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: SB745 (Support)**

Dear Chairman Feldman and members of the Committee:

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association (MHBA) supports SB745 to increase by twelve (12) the number of seats for Maryland students to attend Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM). The additional seats in this program will be a benefit to all of Maryland.

With nearly 95,000 horses in Maryland the economic impact of the Equine industry is \$2.9 billion. The horse industry has many diverse disciplines represented all of which are supported by veterinarians.

The need for additional large animal veterinarians is becoming more evident in the Equine and Bovine communities. Often new Equine practitioners leave the field to pursue the more lucrative, small animal, or specialty practice approach within five years of graduation.

Our industry is feeling the consequences of that shortage throughout Maryland, but this legislation will offer opportunities for all which will help with the need for veterinarians on all fronts.

On behalf of the MHBA we strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB745.

Most sincerely,



Cricket Goodall  
Executive Director



# **Support SB745 Virginia-Maryland College of Veterin**

Uploaded by: Tyler Hough

Position: FAV



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

February 27, 2024

**To:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** Support of SB745 Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine – Funding

On behalf of the member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit this written testimony in support of SB745. This bill would increase the number of Maryland residents from 30 to 42 in the student body of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, contingent on certain agreements.

Veterinary practices across the state, especially large animal, are slowly decreasing and being harder to find. Maryland farmers have a need for large animal vets to support their operations. There is a string of students that head out of state for their education, with many of them not finding their way back home. By increasing the number of Maryland students in the state partnered veterinarian program, and the addition of a Veterinary program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, there is an opportunity to keep more of these students local and coming back to work in Maryland after their education has been completed.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB745**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, (443) 878-4045 with any questions*

# **Information - UMES Doctor of Veterinary Medicine P**

Uploaded by: Rondall Allen

Position: INFO



## **INFORMATION**

### **UMES DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM**

#### **Background**

The HBCU Settlement encouraged UMES to develop new unique programs which addressed critical needs for Maryland and were high-demand. The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine was identified as such a program since there is no other state-based program aside from the agreement between University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) and Virginia Tech which sends 30 students from UMCP to the Virginia-based program.

UMES conducted two independent feasibility studies to ascertain the need and these unequivocally showed that there was a dire need for such a program in Maryland.

#### **Approval through UMES Internal Governance, University System of Maryland (USM) and Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)**

- After extensive development and preparation, the proposed new program was approved through the UMES internal Governance processes in early Fall 2023.
- The USM Board of Regents approved the program on December 16, 2023.
- MHEC approved the program on January 16, 2024.

#### **Accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (COE)**

The UMES DVM program requires approval from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (COE), the national accrediting authority for veterinary schools. Accreditation is a multistep process which will run over several years.

UMES initiated the process in May 2023. UMES received a response from COE acknowledging and accepting our request. To date UMES has provided all pertinent information and the COE has granted a consultative site visit in July 2024 which is a requirement to assess readiness of a program. UMES is working assiduously to ensure

that the process will proceed smoothly.

### **Uniqueness of the UMES Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program**

**Duration:** Traditionally, DVM programs require the standard four-year timeframe to graduation. However, as UMES has executed successfully with several of our other health professions (i.e., pharmacy, physical therapy and physician assistant) programs, the UMES DVM program will operate on an accelerated timeframe allowing our students to graduate within three years and emerge into a workforce with less debt.

**Cost effective:** Because the program will only have two cohorts of students on campus instead of three at any one time, this will lower the overall infrastructure and faculty and staffing costs to run this program.

Second, the program is implemented with significantly lower costs for the final three clinical semesters as it will be operated in a distributed learning model in many clinical sites around the state. Also, this model is one that COE has approved in other parts of the country (e.g., Rowan, Arizona, etc.). This allows us to forego an on-campus teaching hospital, while obtaining clinical rotation partners who will not charge Maryland taxpayers for these services. To achieve this UMES is developing strong partnerships with private sector partners who are interested in supporting the program.

### **Addressing a Critical State and National Need Area**

**Shortage of Veterinarians:** The need for animal healthcare is real. A report by the former Dean of the University of Florida DVM program, James Lloyd, states that by 2030 there could be a shortage of nearly 15,000 companion-animal and large animal veterinarians.

The program at UMES is poised to help address both of these issues. By adding veterinarians to the workforce and by training them in a rural setting, they are more likely to go on to practice in a similar setting, right here in Maryland.

**Diversity:** The UMES DVM program will also help make the veterinary workforce look like the communities they serve. The veterinary medicine profession has been racially homogenous for a long time –roughly 90% of practitioners are white; fewer than 3% are Black.

This program will be only the second such offering at an HBCU, and the only one at a public HBCU institution. The UMES DVM program will be the first that will be fully

taught in the state of Maryland.

Currently, Maryland pays about \$6M for 30 of 120 slots at the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia--a joint venture between Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland College Park.

### **Program Size and Cost**

Pending approval of the COE, UMES will begin teaching a cohort of 100 students per year in Princess Anne, MD in the Fall of 2026.

**Tuition:** UMES proposes to charge Maryland students a tuition of \$30,000 and out of state students \$60,000.

**Maryland Students:** There is no limit to the number of Maryland students who will be accepted into the program. It is noteworthy that as word has gone out regarding the proposed new program, the number of students admitted to the UMES Pre-veterinary Program has tripled over the past year. We therefore anticipate the demand for space in the program to grow.

From experiences with other programs, many students tend to remain local to where they study, therefore we anticipate that the number of students who choose to practice in Maryland will be high.