

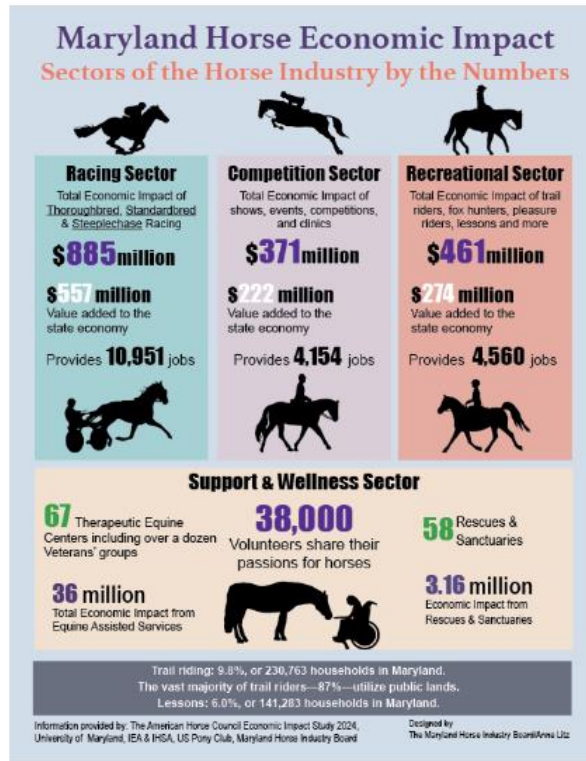
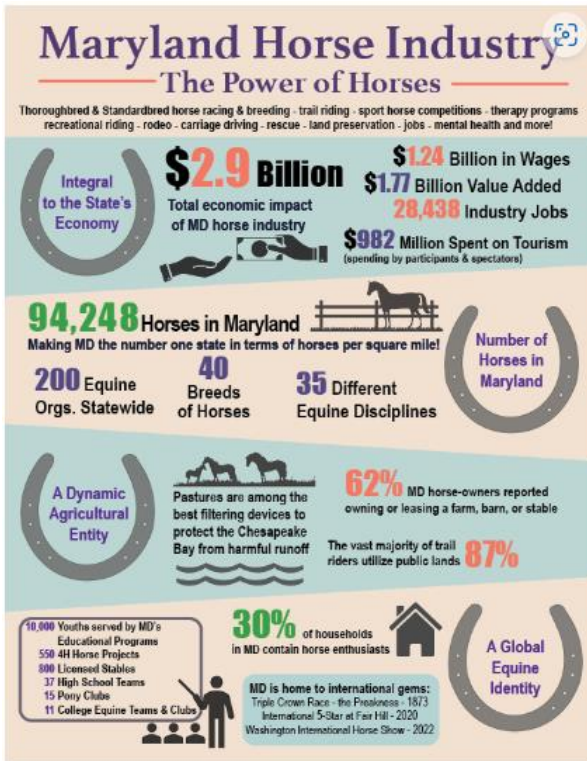
Good afternoon,

3/25/24

Equestrian businesses and activities should not be included in this bill. Maybe it needs to be addressed in a different way but not with this plan. The State of Maryland will suffer greatly if this bill is accepted.

You may want to consider looking at what Pennsylvania did. See Pennsylvania Equine Activity Immunity Act (4 P.S. §§ 601-606).

Again, the State of Maryland will suffer greatly. Do you really want to take this all away? Please note the Support and Wellness sector of therapeutic equine centers that help thousands of people.



It is indicated that if this liability issue goes through all of the above will disappear and the millions of dollars associated with it.

It must be made clear the difference between an equestrian activity dealing with another living, breathing creature with feelings and opinions versus a recreational activity with inanimate objects (soccer balls, baseball bats, dirt bikes, etc). There is also a difference in their related facilities and how they are attended to.

In addition to the economic damage to the state, think of what will happen if every equine related facility in Maryland closed because of this? Where would people board their horses as not everyone can have them in their back yard? Trainers, barn owners, show facility owners will lose their livelihood. These are businesses that support families. People who own and operate facilities do not think it is recreational, it is their source of income because it is their trade. You would be taking their livelihood away. The trickle-down effect will be deleterious.

Please separate out the Equestrian sector from the rest of recreational facilities. They are nothing alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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