

SB 452

To Whom It May Concern,

Every generation of young boys and girls in the country grow up with very positive images of horses through movies, television shows and in print through recreational reading and so on. That type of upbringing is even more so in Maryland where there are more horses and exposure to horses than in any other state per capita. One need only look at the graphics that follow to understand the significant economic impact the horse industry brings to the state on an annualized basis. But it's more than that. Horses bring happiness and positivity to countless generations of the young and the old. The Bill you are currently contemplating will, in all likely hood, financially prohibit many family farms and stables from bringing this joy to tens of thousands of future voters and taxpayers in Maryland. You should also consider the fact that many stables of in Maryland offer exposure to these magnificent animals as a form of therapy to Maryland's less fortunate amongst us. That type of thing cannot be measured in terms of money alone. For those Marylanders and their families, and military veterans, who have come to rely on this type of therapeutic exposure, the loss would be devastating. Please, on behalf of all who love horses and have come to depend on them, don't enact the Bill. The law of unintended consequences will be detrimental to the horse industry in Maryland and Marylanders will take notice of this action.

Maryland Horse Industry

The Power of Horses

Thoroughbred & Standardbred horse racing & breeding - trail riding - sport horse competitions - therapy programs
recreational riding - rodeo - carriage driving - rescue - land preservation - jobs - mental health and more!



Integral to the State's Economy

\$2.9 Billion

Total economic impact of MD horse industry



\$1.24 Billion in Wages

\$1.77 Billion Value Added

28,438 Industry Jobs

\$982 Million Spent on Tourism
(spending by participants & spectators)

94,248 Horses in Maryland

Making MD the number one state in terms of horses per square mile!



Number of Horses in Maryland

200 Equine Orgs. Statewide

40 Breeds of Horses

35 Different Equine Disciplines



A Dynamic Agricultural Entity



Pastures are among the best filtering devices to protect the Chesapeake Bay from harmful runoff



62% MD horse-owners reported owning or leasing a farm, barn, or stable

The vast majority of trail riders utilize public lands **87%**

- 10,000 Youths served by MD's Educational Programs
- 550 4H Horse Projects
- 800 Licensed Stables
- 37 High School Teams
- 15 Pony Clubs
- 11 College Equine Teams & Clubs



30% of households in MD contain horse enthusiasts



MD is home to international gems:
Triple Crown Race - the Preakness - 1873
International 5-Star at Fair Hill - 2020
Washington International Horse Show - 2022



A Global Equine Identity

Maryland Horse Economic Impact

Sectors of the Horse Industry by the Numbers



Racing Sector

Total Economic Impact of
Thoroughbred, Standardbred
& Steeplechase Racing

\$885 million

\$557 million

Value added to the
state economy

Provides **10,951** jobs



Competition Sector

Total Economic Impact of
shows, events, competitions,
and clinics

\$371 million

\$222 million

Value added to the
state economy

Provides **4,154** jobs



Recreational Sector

Total Economic Impact of trail
riders, fox hunters, pleasure
riders, lessons and more

\$461 million

\$274 million

Value added to the
state economy

Provides **4,560** jobs



Support & Wellness Sector

67 Therapeutic Equine
Centers including over a dozen
Veterans' groups

36 million

Total Economic Impact from
Equine Assisted Services

38,000
Volunteers share their
passions for horses



58 Rescues &
Sanctuaries

3.16 million

Economic Impact from
Rescues & Sanctuaries

Trail riding: 9.8%, or 230,763 households in Maryland.
The vast majority of trail riders—87%—utilize public lands.
Lessons: 6.0%, or 141,283 households in Maryland.

Information provided by: The American Horse Council Economic Impact Study 2024,
University of Maryland, IEA & IHSA, US Pony Club, Maryland Horse Industry Board

Designed by
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