

I am opposed to SB452. While it makes sense in some instances, as written, it does not exclude facilities that are involved in equine or canine sports. In those instances, due to the unpredictability of the animals in question, the question of negligence is often difficult to determine.

As written, the law would have a negative impact on equine and canine sports in Maryland, as insurance cost increases and concerns regarding potential litigation could cause small businesses providing boarding and training services to shut down. There are over 800 stables in Maryland, mostly small family run operations, that would be negatively impacted by this bill.

In addition, show venues could potentially step away from hosting equine and canine events. Such a negative impact on canine & equine sports would be an unintended negative consequence of this bill.

The horse industry in Maryland generates nearly 3 billion dollars in positive economic impact. A large 4-day dog show can contribute over a million dollars to the local economy, while smaller events contribute thousand of dollars. Infodog ( a national listing of canine events), shows over 300 canine events in Maryland for the remainder of this year alone.

Perhaps verbiage excluding equine and canine sports would be a reasonable step forward.

<https://business.maryland.gov/blog/equine-industry-generates-big-business-in-maryland>

<https://mdhorsecouncil.org/issues/economic-issues/>

<https://westwinddogtraining.wordpress.com/2017/02/12/the-economic-benefits-of-dog-events/>

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