



MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB

February 24, 2026

Chair Ben Barnes
House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Letter of Information

House Bill 1215

Maryland Stadium Authority – Sale of Shamrock Farm to Carroll County

Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Prior to sunseting in the 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority selected Shamrock Farms (“Shamrock”) as the preferred site for a year-round thoroughbred training facility. The State, through the Board of Public Works, acquired the 328-acre property on May 7th, 2025 using project funds from the “Pimlico Plus” thoroughbred racing redevelopment plan.

House Bill 1215 grants the County Commissioners of Carroll County a three-year exclusive option to purchase Shamrock Farm on or before July 1, 2029, and authorizes the County to subsequently pay the Maryland Stadium Authority (“MSA”) in five equal, annual installments. The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (“MTHA”) and The Maryland Jockey Club, Inc. (“TMJC”) urge the General Assembly and MSA to reinvest the proceeds from any sale of Shamrock into the revitalization of the future thoroughbred training facility.

MTHA and TMJC appreciate the sponsors’ thoughtful process set forth in House Bill 1215 to ensure County participation in the disposition of Shamrock. MTHA and TMJC respectfully request accelerated timelines for both the exclusive purchase option period, and the installment payment schedule set forth in the bill, to provide much needed funds for the Pimlico Plus Plan.

Sincerely,

Bill Knauf
President, TMJC

Katharine M. Voss,
President, MTHA