

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

TITLE: HB972 Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund - Establishment (Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Act)

DATE: February 25th 2026

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: Letter of Information

SUMMARY OF BILL: This bill establishes the Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund to provide grants that advance agricultural fairs and education in the State. The bill requires that \$1.5 million of proceeds from the State Lottery Fund be distributed to the new special fund beginning in fiscal 2027. The bill also repeals requirements that specified amounts from the State horse racing special fund be used to promote State agricultural fairs and education

EXPLANATION: This legislation creates a special non-lapsing fund that requires \$1.5 million in proceeds from the State Lottery Fund to be distributed to the new fund beginning in fiscal 2027, resulting in an equivalent loss of general fund revenue. In addition, the loss of revenue could pose a risk for the bond coverage ratios of lottery debt, which supports projects for the Orioles, Ravens, and Pimlico.

Given the significant uncertainty in federal policy and the escalating fiscal shortfalls forecasted through Fiscal Year 2028, the Department urges caution against legislation that increases expenditures or diverts revenue without sustainable funding offsets. In light of the current fiscal crisis, the State must remain disciplined and strategic in its funding decisions to protect essential services for all Marylanders.

For additional information, contact Dana Phillips at

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DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
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