



Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States

1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100
humaneworld.org

March 24, 2026

Health Committee

**SB 585 - Human-Relevant Research Fund-Collection of Contributions-Responsible Entity
FAVORABLE**

Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States, and our Maryland members and supporters urge a favorable report of SB 585. This committee favorably reported its crossfile (HB 625). Humane World for Animals was a lead advocate for the 2023 legislation (HB 626/ SB 560) that created the Human-Relevant Research Fund to create dedicated funding for scientific research that is based on human biology. The passage of this law set Maryland apart as a leader in prioritizing development and use of modern biotechnology.

SB 585 is a simple fix to that 2023 law that changes the agency responsible for collecting the funds from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). This legislative change was requested by MDH and we appreciate Secretary Atticks' willingness to have MDA take on this additional responsibility.

The 2023 law had strong bipartisan support and received favorable testimony from leading biotechnology companies developing and using non-animal approaches in Maryland and across the country including Emulate, Organovo Inc., MatTek Life Sciences, Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc., Propagenix Inc., and Hesperos, Inc. I refer you to the attached letter of support for SB 585 that industry submitted for the Senate Finance Committee hearing.

Humane World for Animals urges a favorable report on SB 585 to ensure the successful implementation of the Human-Relevant Research Fund.

Thank you,

Stacey Volodin

Maryland State Director
Humane World for Animals
Svolodin@humaneworld.org