

of House Bill 1077 by the amendment which deleted the reference to a specific test to be administered, I have decided to veto House Bill 1077.

Sincerely,
/s/ Marvin Mandel
Governor

Letter from State Department of Agriculture on H.B. 1077

April 24, 1975

Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21204

Dear Governor Mandel:

Your attention is directed to House Bills 1077 and 1078 of which I am deeply concerned.

For quite a few years, Maryland has been faced with Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This matter was brought to the attention of the horse industry but they expressed little interest in developing a program. After seeing that other states were developing a program that might prevent the movement of Maryland horses interstate, the industry approached us last year and requested our assistance.

Many states moved into a similar program too swiftly and found they had assumed a task much greater than their potential and then had to withdraw and regroup with a less extensive program. We have tried to take advantage of the experience of other states and are moving slowly to develop a workable program. We have regulations to require certain procedures be followed when a positive reactor is found to protect other horses from the infection.

On March 18th a hearing was held on regulations to require all horses entering the State, to have been tested within the last year. (The Racing Commission is requiring a yearly test of track entries). We have the authority, through the last Legislature, to control the public sale of horses in Maryland as soon as we can develop plans. Your signing of House Bill 30 as soon as possible would give us this authority. We are now preparing regulations to require testing all horses in shows. This is a very difficult program to develop and a great deal of emotionalism is involved; it is felt we must move cautiously.