

Sincerely,
Marvin Mandel
Governor

House Bill No. 1626 - Equine Anemia Testing

AN ACT concerning

Horses - Infectious Equine Anemia Testing

FOR the purpose of requiring horses or equines to undergo certain testing at a certain time before being allowed to be shipped into Maryland; requiring these horses or equines to be accompanied by a certificate which verifies that the testing was performed in a certain laboratory and which displays certain information with regard to this test and the animals involved; and providing definitions.

May 17, 1976.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1626.

This bill provides that a horse or equine may not be brought into the State after January 1, 1977, unless it has had a negative test for equine infectious anemia within six months prior to shipment.

Last year I vetoed a similar bill, partly because the Secretary of Agriculture informed me that he was then developing regulations to require the testing of horses entering Maryland on a twelve month basis. Those regulations are now effective in Maryland.

The Maryland Racing Commission has requested that I veto House Bill 1626. The Commission informs me that the six month testing period of the bill will conflict directly with its regulations, as well as those of the Department of Agriculture. All racing states evidently strive for uniformity on the matter of testing of horses; traditionally, this testing period has been twelve months. The uniform approach is obviously for the