

## AN ACT concerning

## Sale of Horses

FOR the purpose of requiring a certificate stating that a certain test has been given to any horse or other equine offered for sale in this State; providing that this certificate shall contain certain information; relating generally to sale of horses and other equines in Maryland; 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 1627.

This bill prohibits the sale of a horse or other equine in Maryland unless a certificate is attached to the bill of sale stating that, within six months prior to the sale, the horse had a negative test for equine infectious anemia.

Last year I vetoed a similar bill, partly because the Secretary of Agriculture informed me that he was then developing regulations to effectuate a program which would require such testing of horses within a twelve month period. Those regulations are now in effect in Maryland.

This testing program has developed on the basis of a twelve month test requirement, and it has proved to be successful on that basis. At some later date, the Secretary may determine that it is both practical and advisable to strengthen the requirement as mandated by House Bill 1627. If he does so determine, he may then propose to amend the Department's regulations accordingly. However, I believe that the program will prove to be most beneficial to the State if this regulatory latitude is left to the Secretary. At this time, the testing program is operating effectively on a twelve month basis, and I hesitate to sign a bill which will mandate a change in that success, when current evaluations of the program indicate that a change is neither required nor advisable.

I have today vetoed a related bill, House Bill 1626,