



## **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMENT**

**DATE: 3/2/16 BILL NO.: HB 1163**

**SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE – VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVES – INFORMATION COLLECTION**

**COMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

**MDA POSITION: LETTER OF CONCERN**

#### **EXPLANATION:**

HB 1163 would require the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to collect, maintain, and report prescription drug information written by a licensed veterinarian that is issued through a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). This information would be collected every six months from veterinarians and reported to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee and the House Environment and Transportation committee on an annual basis.

#### **COMMENT:**

MDA is concerned that although the farm operation or owner of the farm operation utilizing the prescribed VFD maintains anonymity, similar consideration was not given to the identity of the prescribing veterinarian. Maintaining confidentiality of personal identifiers for both parties is necessary to avoid unnecessary scrutiny.

MDA appreciates consideration given to the above concern.