



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

DATE: 3/2/16 BILL NO.: HB 829

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE - CATTLE, SWINE, AND POULTRY - USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS

COMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

MDA POSITION: OPPOSE

EXPLANATION:

HB 829 prohibits on or after a certain date, a certain owner or an authorized agent of a cattle, swine, or poultry premise from administrating medically important antimicrobial drugs in feed or water without a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) order (Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations(CFR), §558.6 *Veterinary Feed Directive Drugs*).

HB 829 states on or after a certain date only a veterinarian licensed in Maryland operating in the course of that veterinarian's professional practice, and in the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) can issue a VFD order.

Additionally, HB 829 requires the Maryland licensed veterinarian that issues a VFD order to submit to the Maryland Department of Agriculture certain information in a certain manner. The Department shall maintain the certain information, and on or after a certain date report that certain information to the General Assembly. Also, the Department shall make the information available for public review. The Department may impose an administrative penalty, not exceeding \$2000.00, on a person that violates HB 829.

COMMENT:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) opposes HB 829 because Maryland should wait before implementing any cattle, swine or poultry antimicrobial drug usage legislation to give the FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) time to finalize 21 CFR §558.6 *Veterinary Feed Directive Drugs*. When finalized, 21 CFR §558.6 will meet the intent of HB 829 without the duplication by the Department of the required VFD antimicrobial drug usage reporting. Also, the FDA, CVM has the authority through the Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) to regulate the development, production and distribution of antimicrobial drugs. Not only does the FDA and CVM have the national authority, but has the resources to collect and report VFD orders. The Department opposes HB 829 because it does not have same authority or resources.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture opposes HB 829 because it is duplicative of the national effort to place the use of medically important antibiotics in feed and water under

veterinary oversight, and because HB 829 would cause both an operational and fiscal impact on the Department.

MDA respectfully requests an unfavorable report for HB 829.