



## **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMENT**

**DATE: March 2, 2016**

**BILL NO.: SB 767**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION – BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR – AFTER LABOR DAY**

**COMITTEE: SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**MDA POSITION: WRITTEN SUPPORT**

#### **EXPLANATION:**

SB 767 would mandate that public schools and publicly funded prekindergarten programs begin the day after Labor Day.

#### **COMMENT:**

MDA supports this legislation. Due to the earlier start dates of schools in Maryland, the 133 year old Maryland State Fair has faced dwindling crowds over the years. The State Fair is an excellent opportunity for Maryland citizens to learn about agriculture. It has never lost sight of its mission to encourage the educational growth of youth (among them 4-H and Future Farmers of America), providing a venue to showcase their skills, and to educate the general public regarding agriculture and its importance to our future. As many people continue to become more removed from agriculture, and Maryland becomes more urbanized, venues like the Maryland State Fair are even more important today.

**MDA requests a favorable report for SB 767.**