



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMENT**

DATE: 2/24/16

BILL NO.: HB 980

SUBJECT: STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS – DISCIPLINARY ACTION REPORT – PUBLICATION ON WEB SITE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

MDA POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION:

HB 980 requires that the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) publish a report of actions taken by the SBVME on its website if the action is subject to public disclosure under the General Provisions Article.

COMMENT:

Since 2009, the staff of the SBVME has prepared a disciplinary action chart on a quarterly basis that it submits to MDA's Public Information Office (PIO). The PIO includes the chart on MDA's website, where enforcement actions taken by other programs are also included.

The chart provided by the SBVME includes the following information: licensee name; location of practice by county; date action taken; docket number; Annotated Code or COMAR citations; and penalty imposed. The chart includes information relative to licensees who have been formally disciplined by the SBVME. Examples of types of discipline include: revocation, suspension, probation, civil penalty, and reprimand.

The SBVME's reporting of such information has been performed voluntarily for nearly seven years. As such, HB980 is redundant and unnecessary.

MDA and the SBVME appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of information for HB 980.