



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

DATE: February 27, 2019

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 652

SHORT TITLE: AGRICULTURE - USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS - LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

MDA POSITION: INFORMATION

EXPLANATION:

The purpose of this legislation is to make various changes to provisions governing the administration of medically important antimicrobial drugs to cattle, swine, or poultry, relating to:

- 1) the allowable administration of the drugs;
- 2) the definition of “medically important antimicrobial drug”;
- 3) the applicability of the provisions;
- 4) 4) the penalty for violating the provisions; and
- 5) reporting requirements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the 2017 legislative session the Keep Antibiotics Effective Act (Senate Bill 422 and House Bill 602) was passed and became law. The law became effective on October 1, 2017. The purpose of the 2017 law is to authorize the administration of medically important antimicrobials to certain cattle, swine and poultry by a licensed veterinarian while prohibiting administration to cattle, swine and poultry in a certain pattern. The law required the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to collect and to report publicly available data on medically important antimicrobial drug usage in cattle, swine and poultry to the General Assembly by December 1, 2019. Currently, regulations are pending to clarify and support the current law and the proposed law.

With regard to House Bill 652, MDA has issues of concern on who reports usage data of medically important antimicrobials. The Department is also asking for time to investigate the use of medically important antimicrobials in specific cases where there is an elevated risk of

infection or disease to the mammary gland of a dairy cow (mastitis) during dry period. MDA is working with the committee to address these concerns.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.