

# SENATE BILL 505

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By: **Senators Hough and Hester**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Crimes Against Animals – Interference With Equines**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain prohibition against interfering with, injuring,  
4 tampering with, or destroying a horse used for a certain purpose to prohibit a person  
5 from interfering with, injuring, tampering with, or destroying an equine used for a  
6 certain purpose or for any other lawful activity; changing the crime from a felony to  
7 a misdemeanor; altering the maximum penalty to include a certain fine or certain  
8 prison sentence; providing for the application of this Act; defining a certain term;  
9 and generally relating to crimes against animals.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Criminal Law  
12 Section 10–620  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### 17 **Article – Criminal Law**

18 10–620.

19 (a) **IN THIS SECTION, “EQUINE” INCLUDES HORSES, DONKEYS, MULES, AND**  
20 **PONIES.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE OWNER OF THE EQUINE OR A PERSON ACTING ON BEHALF OF OR AT THE DIRECTION OF THE OWNER OF THE EQUINE.

(C) A person may not:

(1) willfully and maliciously interfere with, injure, destroy, or tamper with [a horse] AN EQUINE used for:

(I) racing or breeding [or for];

(II) a competitive exhibition of skill, breed, or stamina; OR

(III) ANY OTHER LAWFUL ACTIVITY;

(2) willfully start, instigate, engage in, or further an act that interferes with, injures, destroys, or tampers with [a horse] AN EQUINE used for:

(I) racing or breeding [or for];

(II) a competitive exhibition of skill, breed, or stamina; OR

(III) ANY OTHER LAWFUL ACTIVITY;

(3) commit an act that tends to interfere with, injure, destroy, or tamper with [a horse] AN EQUINE used for:

(I) racing or breeding [or for];

(II) a competitive exhibition of skill, breed, or stamina; OR

(III) ANY OTHER LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

~~[(b)]~~ ~~(C)~~ (D) A person who violates this section is guilty of a [felony] MISDEMEANOR and on conviction is subject to A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR imprisonment [of not less than 1 year and] not exceeding [3 years] 1 YEAR OR BOTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.