

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 1123

(Senator Edwards)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Garrett County – Regulation of Animals – Enforcement

This bill authorizes Garrett County to transfer the responsibilities for enforcing animal control laws and regulations to the Garrett County Sheriff's Office. Under current law, the animal control officer is responsible for enforcing animal control laws and regulations. Under the bill, either the Sheriff's Office or the animal control officer can be assigned these enforcement responsibilities, which is similar to the arrangement in Calvert County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Garrett County expenditures decrease by \$15,000 in FY 2019 and by \$50,000 annually beginning in FY 2020. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: In Garrett County, the animal control officer is required to enforce animal control laws. The Garrett County fiscal 2018 budget includes 34 full-time positions in the county sheriff's office and expenditures of \$3.6 million for salaries, benefits, and other expenses. The fiscal 2018 budget includes 2 full-time and 3 part-time positions for the animal control office and expenditures of \$308,300 for salaries, benefits, and other expenses.

Local Fiscal Effect: Beginning in fiscal 2019, the Garrett County animal control office will be eliminated and its duties will be transferred to the county's sheriff's office. The

Garrett County Sheriff's Office indicates that two deputies will be reassigned to enforce county animal control laws and regulations. Garrett County will also realign the operations of the county animal shelter so that it will be operated by a third party rather than the county government. Garrett County estimates that these changes will result in an expenditure decrease of \$15,000 in fiscal 2019 and \$50,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2020.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1734 (Delegate Beitzel) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Garrett County; *Garrett County Republican*; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2018
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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510