



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 114 Agriculture – Animal Shelters – Waiver of Adoption Fee**

Delegate Bob Long on the record to present HB 114

This bill would waiver the adoption fee for veterans and first responders at animal shelters.

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, 15% of veterans experience Veteran’s heart in a given year.

According to the Journal of Emergency Services, first responders are 10 times more likely to attempt suicide compared to average citizens.

I know a first responder that didn’t kill himself because of his pet.

Dr. Frank Ochberg, a pioneer in trauma science from the National Institute of Mental Health, said his studies found that service dogs provide treatment to Vets with PTSD

I have a letter of support from Dr. Ochberg, the American Legion and the Maryland Military Coalition.

We have a service training animals facility in Montgomery County

Sen. Simonaire has a similar bill that has passed the Senate, but does not include first responders.

I wanted to add first responders because they deal with trauma issues as veterans.