



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

March 4, 2021

To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty- Petition for Costs of Care of Seized Animal- HB 1080 - Support with sponsor amendments.

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov and I am the President and Chairman of the Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. We champion legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. On behalf of our board of directors, as well as the thousands of members of Maryland Votes for Animals, I respectfully ask that this committee vote favorably for Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty- Petition for Costs of Care of Seized Animal- HB 1080 with sponsor amendments.

This bill codifies the existing practice of animal control agencies around the state by going into further detail about the process for animals seized in cruelty cases. By establishing a uniform system, all parties, including the accused, the animals, and the animal control agencies are protected. A majority of states have costs of care laws, including our neighboring states: Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, and West Virginia.

HB 1080 will provide relief for financially strapped animal control agencies as well as Maryland taxpayers, who should not be financially responsible for the animals seized in a cruelty case. Moreover, it will allow the animals who have been determined by their owner to be too much of a financial burden, to be adopted into loving homes – instead of waiting months or years - for the case to be decided.

How often do we get to pass legislation that is both compassionate and fiscally responsible? This bill is both.

I would like to thank Delegate Moon for his sponsorship of this bill and urge a favorable report with the sponsor amendments.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

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