



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

Wednesday January 19, 2022

SB 44 / HB 16- Crimes - Unattended Dogs - Extreme Weather Conditions and Heat-FAVORABLE W/ AMENDMENT

Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA) was established in 1886 and is the largest professional and advocacy organization for veterinarians and technicians in Maryland. MDVMA's mission is to serve as a leading resource for the veterinary community through communication, education, representation and support for the advancement of animal and public health in Maryland.

HB 16 clarifies and offers definitions to expand on existing law that prohibits mistreatment of certain animals by prohibiting a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended for longer than 30 minutes without access to specified shelter/shade during certain weather conditions.

Generally, MDVMA supports this policy that promotes safe and healthy boarding of animals; however, MDVMA would offer the following perspective. Some animal breeds prefer and thrive in conditions outlined under the definition of "extreme conditions" in the bill such as Huskies, Malamutes, etc.

MDVMA requests that the committee consider another exception in **Part D on Page 3** of the bill that would allow exceptions for acceptable dog breeds and sizes that are known to operate well and prefer more extreme temperatures.

The Maryland Veterinary Medical Association Respectfully Urges a Favorable with Amendments Report

Contacts:

Marisa Francis, MDVMA Executive Director – (717) – 480 – 8376

Moirá Cyphers & Josh Howe, Compass Government Relations – (443)-343-7143