

Chapter 266

(Senate Bill 639)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund; specifying the membership, chair, and staff of the Task Force; specifying that a member of the Task Force may not receive compensation, but may receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to review certain spay/neuter programs, ~~develop a certain spay/neuter program~~ collect and review certain data concerning spay/neuter services in the State, and make certain recommendations; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee; and

(4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

(ii) one representative of the Humane Society of the United States;

(iii) one representative of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association;

- (iv) one representative of Maryland Votes for Animals;
- (v) one representative of the Howard County Animal Advocates;
- (vi) one representative of the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter;
- (vii) one representative of the Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, Inc.;
- (viii) one representative of the Maryland SPCA; ~~and~~
- (ix) one representative of the Pet Food Institute;
- (x) one representative of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council; and
- ~~(xi) one representative of the Maryland Dog Federation;~~
- ~~(xii) one representative of the Friends of Prince George's County Animals; and~~
- ~~(ix)~~ ~~(xiii)~~ (xi) two representatives of other private or public organizations with experience and interest in spay/neuter programs.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates jointly shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of ~~Legislative Services~~ ~~Agriculture~~ Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

- (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

- (1) collect and review data on the number of spay/neuter services performed each year in the State and the unmet need for the services;
- (2) review ongoing successful local spay/neuter programs in the State;

(3) review spay/neuter programs in other states and identify best practices;

(4) review and make recommendations regarding the most appropriate funding mechanism for a spay/neuter fund; and

(5) make recommendations regarding the establishment of a spay/neuter fund that best meets the needs of the State.

(g) On or before January 1, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings and legislative recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House ~~Health and Government Operations~~ Environmental Matters Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.