

HOUSE BILL 795

E1, L6

4lr2290

By: **Delegates Waldstreicher, Barkley, Barnes, Cardin, Carr, Frick, Frush, Gilchrist, Glenn, Haddaway–Riccio, Hucker, A. Kelly, Luedtke, Malone, McComas, McConkey, McDermott, S. Robinson, Simmons, Smigiel, and A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Fiscal Impact Associated With Animal Cruelty Cases**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Fiscal Impact Associated With
4 Animal Cruelty Cases; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Task Force to collect and review certain data and certain laws and
8 make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to
9 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
10 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
11 and generally relating to the Task Force on the Fiscal Impact Associated With
12 Animal Cruelty Cases.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force on the Fiscal Impact Associated With Animal
16 Cruelty Cases.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

3 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Veterinary Medical
4 Association;

5 (iii) one representative of the Professional Animal Workers of
6 Maryland, Inc.;

7 (iv) six representatives from nonprofit animal advocacy
8 organizations, at least three of which must routinely care for animals seized in cruelty
9 cases;

10 (v) one representative of the Prince George's County Animal
11 Management Division;

12 (vi) one representative of the Animal Law Section of the
13 Maryland State Bar Association;

14 (vii) two representatives of other private or public organizations
15 with experience in animal cruelty prosecutions;

16 (viii) one representative of a county prosecutor's office;

17 (ix) one representative of a municipal sheriff's office;

18 (x) one district or circuit court judge; and

19 (xi) one member of the public.

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

22 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Task Force.

23 (e) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
26 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 (f) The Task Force shall:

1 (1) collect and review data on animal cruelty cases and the fiscal
2 impact on animal shelters or animal control agencies caring for animals seized in
3 animal cruelty cases;

4 (2) review laws providing restitution for animal shelters and animal
5 control agencies caring for animals seized in cruelty cases within Maryland and in
6 other states to identify best practices and any existing problems; and

7 (3) make recommendations regarding a means of providing restitution
8 for animal shelters and animal control agencies caring for animals seized in cruelty
9 cases.

10 (g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
11 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 2 months and, at the
15 end of July 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
16 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.