

SENATE BILL 513

E1, L6

4lr2232

By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 2 (ii) one representative of the American Society for the
3 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- 4 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Veterinary Medical
5 Association;
- 6 (iv) one representative of the Howard County Animal Advocates;
- 7 (v) one representative of the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care
8 Shelter;
- 9 (vi) one representative of the Professional Animal Workers of
10 Maryland, Inc.;
- 11 (vii) one representative of the Maryland SPCA;
- 12 (viii) one representative of the Humane Society of the United
13 States;
- 14 (ix) one representative of the Montgomery County Humane
15 Society;
- 16 (x) one representative of the Prince George's County Animal
17 Management Division;
- 18 (xi) one representative of the Animal Law Section of the
19 Maryland State Bar Association;
- 20 (xii) two representatives of other private or public organizations
21 with experience in animal cruelty prosecutions;
- 22 (xiii) one representative of a county prosecutor's office;
- 23 (xiv) one representative of a municipal sheriff's office;
- 24 (xv) one district or circuit court judge; and
- 25 (xvi) one member of the public.
- 26 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates
27 shall jointly designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 28 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 29 (e) A member of the Task Force:

- 1 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 2 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
3 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 4 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 5 (1) collect and review data on animal cruelty cases and the fiscal
6 impact on animal shelters or animal control agencies caring for animals seized in
7 animal cruelty cases;
- 8 (2) review laws providing restitution for animal shelters and animal
9 control agencies caring for animals seized in cruelty cases within Maryland and in
10 other states to identify best practices and any existing problems; and
- 11 (3) make recommendations regarding a means of providing restitution
12 for animal shelters and animal control agencies caring for animals seized in cruelty
13 cases.
- 14 (g) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
15 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the General Assembly.

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