

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1039 (Delegate D. Jones)  
Environment and Transportation

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**Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing**

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This bill establishes the Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must provide staff for the task force. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses, as specified. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2024. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** DHCD can provide staff for the task force and State agencies can participate as members of the task force with existing budget resources. Expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must study matters relating to pet-friendly housing, including (1) financial incentives that have potential to influence rental housing owners to create more pet-friendly housing, (2) insurance or liability structures that place burdens on the ability of landlords to offer pet-friendly housing, and (3) barriers on varied sizes and

breeds that prohibit landlords from allowing pets. The task force must also make recommendations on how to financially incentivize the expansion of pet-friendly housing.

**Current Law:** There is no relevant State law regarding pet-friendly housing. However, Prince George’s County prohibits the ownership of pit bulls.

Among other responsibilities, DHCD provides financing for the economic development and maintenance of affordable housing and communities in Maryland. DHCD also provides funding for community revitalization projects. As introduced, the fiscal 2024 capital budget includes a mixture of general funds, special funds, and federal funds for the following DHCD programs that provide assistance to homebuyers and those facilitating community revitalization in Maryland:

- Strategic Demolition Fund (\$25.0 million);
- Neighborhood Business Development Program (\$22.2 million);
- Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative (\$12.0 million);
- National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program (\$7.0 million);
- Community Development Block Grant Program (\$12.0 million);
- Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund (\$10.0 million);
- Special Loan Programs (\$10.4 million);
- Community Legacy Program (\$6.0 million);
- Homeownership Programs (\$21.0 million); and
- Housing and Building Energy Program (\$15.8 million).

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Housing and Community Development; SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George’s County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2023  
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