



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
Department of Maryland  
Legislative Commission

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0128 LOCAL GOVERNMENT – ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES –  
ADOPTION FEE WAIVER FOR VETERANS (PETS FOR VETS ACT of 2020)**

Senator Pensky and distinguished members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, The American Legion now in its second century of service feel SB 128 would be profound aid to our veteran community.

Pet animals are almost family in scores of households throughout our nation. This is especially true for our veterans. Ground combat forces are especially entwined with dogs where in many cases these animals have been lifesaving on the battle fields.

In reviewing the *Fiscal and Policy Note* accompanying this measure we find some “local and county shelters already waive adoption fees for certain animals or for special adoption programs, and, additionally Anne Arundel County partners with the ‘Pets for Patriots’ program.”

It is The American Legion’s belief the addition of a pet may be the best medication for a veteran suffering from such maladies as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The use of the Maryland Driver’s License administered by the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration with the stamp VETERAN on the front is more than adequate in terms of legitimizing identity status.

In representation of more than 46,000 veterans and their families in Maryland’s 23 counties and the Baltimore City we urge a favorable report and thank Senator Simonaire and the co-sponsors for their empathy to the veteran community and shelter bound pets. Thank you.

*Pat Guibao*

Patrick J. Guibao  
Chair  
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