



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**SB 1055 Agriculture Roosters Restrictions
Maryland Senate Energy, Education and Environment Committee**

February 29, 2024

Dear Honorable Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on SB 1055 limiting the number of roosters allowed on a certain parcel of land.

While it is illegal, our communities across the state are still encountering the acts of cockfighting and the breeding of animals for this crime. From nuisance complaints of more than 80 roosters in a residential area to the arrest and conviction of those holding more than 100 birds, these cases are not as rare as way may like to think. To be able to limit, track and manage the number of roosters on a property and for what purpose will be an especially valuable tool in the toolbox of humane law enforcement across the state when tackling this issue.

Not only are we concerned about the acts of breeding and fighting these animals, the health concerns for these and other flocks in the area are vitally important. We know that in the past year we have had major outbreaks of avian flu in our state on both sides of the bay. The birds used for cockfighting are not regulated in their uses, rarely vaccinated, and often being transported across states, in turn causing more potential illnesses in our Maryland flocks. We see this bill as a tool in preventing cockfighting at its core—the breeders and protecting other Maryland flocks.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland believes the passing of SB 1055 is a valuable tool in our work to serve the animals and people of Maryland.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, CAWA

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland