



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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February 3, 2026

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Courts - Immunity From Liability - Donation of Pet Supplies – SB 314 – Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to send testimony in support of SB 314. My name is Lisa Radov, President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. We champion legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. On behalf of our board of directors, as well as the thousands of members of Maryland Votes for Animals, I respectfully ask that this committee vote favorably for Courts - Immunity From Liability - Donation of Pet Supplies – SB 314.

This bill establishes a certain immunity from liability for a person who donates a pet item or dispenses a donated pet item; and authorizes the State Department of Agriculture to inspect donated commercial feed and establish procedures for handling donated commercial feed.

This bill good be deemed the “assume good intentions” when accepting pet food donations bill. It specifically states that:

UNLESS THE ACT OR OMISSION AMOUNTS TO GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL AND WANTON MISCONDUCT, A PERSON IS NOT CIVILLY LIABLE FOR ANY ACT OR OMISSION THAT AFFECTS THE NATURE, AGE, CONDITION, OR PACKAGING OF A DONATED PET ITEM IF THE PERSON IN GOOD FAITH: (1) DONATED THE PET ITEM FOR USE OR DISTRIBUTION BY A NONPROFIT CORPORATION, ORGANIZATION, OR ASSOCIATION OR A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; OR(2) DISPENSED THE DONATED PET ITEM ON BEHALF OF A NONPROFIT CORPORATION, ORGANIZATION, OR ASSOCIATION OR A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

These pet items are integral to supplement the budgets of non-profits, organizations, and shelters run by the State or local government. They rely on the kindness and generosity of individuals making these donations to feed the animals in their care. This bill would ensure that there are not unforeseen adverse consequences that would dissuade people from making these donations in the future. SB 314 would preserve the positive relationship between these two parties with the knowledge that people would not potentially be penalized when there is no malicious intent and they are simply are doing the right thing by making a donation to feed animals in need.

I would like to thank Senator Waldstreicher for his sponsorship of this bill and urge a favorable report.

