

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 971 (Delegate Edwards)  
Judiciary

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**Humane Society - Repeal of Written Notice to Inspect**

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This bill repeals the provision requiring a humane society to give prior written notice of an inspection of property for the purpose of determining if there is inhumane treatment of dogs. Prior written notice is required when a humane society inspects property where a person is engaged in the business of buying, selling, trading, or breeding dogs, or the premises of any kennels where 25 or more dogs are kept.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Small business kennels or dog breeders would be subject to unannounced inspections by the local humane society.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Any authorized director of a State-chartered humane society, when accompanied by a sheriff or sheriff's deputy, may visit and inspect certain premises where a person is engaged in the business of buying, selling, trading, or breeding dogs, or the premises of any kennels where 25 or more dogs are kept for the purpose of determining if there is inhumane treatment of dogs on the premises. The humane society must provide prior written notice of the time and date of the inspection to the owners or

occupants of the premises. The inspection does not apply to any premises: (1) on which the keeping or breeding of dogs is solely for the purpose of medical or related research or laboratory tests; (2) operated by a licensed and regularly practicing veterinarian; or (3) on which hunting dogs are housed, if the buying, selling, trading, or breeding is incidental to the main purposes of housing, keeping, and using dogs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Carroll, Harford, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community Public Health Administration); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 14, 2001  
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