
By: **Delegate Boutin**
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2004
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety - Task Force on Dangerous Dogs in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Dangerous Dogs in Maryland to
4 study the danger to the health and safety of State residents from certain dogs
5 and the current State and local laws regulating the control of certain dogs;
6 specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task
7 Force to make legislative recommendations; requiring that the Governor, to the
8 extent possible, make appointments to the Task Force representing
9 geographically diverse jurisdictions; requiring the Governor to designate the
10 chairman of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to meet with a certain
11 frequency; requiring the Task Force to provide a certain report to the Governor
12 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for staffing of
13 the Task Force; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
14 to a Task Force on Dangerous Dogs in Maryland.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) There is a Task Force on Dangerous Dogs in Maryland.

18 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of:

19 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
22 the Senate;

23 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture or a designee of the Secretary; and

24 (4) the following members appointed by the Governor:

25 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

26 (ii) one State's attorney;

27 (iii) one representative of the Humane Society;

- 1 (iv) one representative of the American Kennel Club;
- 2 (v) one veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the
3 State;
- 4 (vi) one representative of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
5 to Animals;
- 6 (vii) one representative of a county animal control agency;
- 7 (viii) one representative of the Baltimore City Health Department;
- 8 (ix) one operator of an animal shelter;
- 9 (x) one dog trainer certified by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers;
10 and
- 11 (xi) one victim of a dangerous dog attack or a member of the victim's
12 family.

13 (c) (1) In appointing members of the Task Force, the Governor shall, to the
14 extent possible, appoint members representing geographically diverse jurisdictions
15 across the State.

16 (2) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

17 (d) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member
18 but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel
19 Regulations as provided in the State budget.

20 (e) The Task Force shall meet at least monthly at the times and places that
21 the chairman determines.

22 (f) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) study available information on:

24 (i) the danger to the health and safety of State residents from
25 dangerous dogs; and

26 (ii) the efficacy of current State and local laws and ordinances
27 regulating the control of dangerous dogs;

28 (2) make legislative recommendations; and

29 (3) prepare a report summarizing its findings and recommendations.

30 (g) The Task Force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the
31 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
32 Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.

1 (h) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff to the Task Force.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 October 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at
4 the end of December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General
5 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.