

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1281 (Delegates Frush and Kach)
Health and Government Operations

**Public Safety - Emergency Management Advisory Council - Recommendations
for Care of Domestic Animals During Emergency**

This bill requires the Maryland Emergency Management Advisory Council (MEMAC) to include in its report to the Governor and the General Assembly, due by December 1, 2007, the recommendations of the council for the care of the State's domestic animals in event of a major natural disaster.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MEMAC is appointed by the Governor, comprised of representatives of volunteer fire and rescue companies; the manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries; and local governments. It advises the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management. Chapter 181 of 2005 provides that MEMAC must annually report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the council's activities and recommendations by December 1 of each year.

Background: The plight of domestic animals during the natural disasters stemming from hurricanes along the Gulf Coast in 2005 was widely reported by television and print media.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2006
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