

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 609

(Senator Benson)(Chair, Task Force on the Establishment  
of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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**Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund - Sunset  
Extension**

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This bill extends the termination date of the Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund from June 30, 2012, to June 30, 2013. The bill also extends the deadline for the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified legislative committees from January 1, 2012, to January 1, 2013.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2012.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Continuing to provide staff for the task force and making any expense reimbursements for task force members for the extended period are expected to be absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 266 of 2011 established the Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund to:

- collect and review data on the number of spay/neuter services performed each year in the State and the unmet need for the services;

- review ongoing successful local spay/neuter programs in the State;
- review spay/neuter programs in other states and identify best practices;
- review and make recommendations regarding the most appropriate funding mechanism for a spay/neuter fund; and
- make recommendations regarding the establishment of a spay/neuter fund that best meets the needs of the State.

The Department of Legislative Services must provide staff for the task force, and the task force must report its findings and legislative recommendations to the Governor and specified legislative committees by January 1, 2012.

Chapter 266 terminates June 30, 2012.

**Background:** Following its appointment, the Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund met twice during the 2011 interim, identifying numerous issues it needs to address and data that must be collected with respect to spay/neuter services. Due to insufficient time remaining in the 2011 interim to complete its charge, the task force voted in December 2011 to request legislation to extend the task force and the deadline for it to report its final findings and legislative recommendations by one year.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 936 (Delegate Frush, *et al.*) (Chair, Task Force on the Establishment of a Statewide Spay/Neuter Fund) - Environmental Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 29, 2012  
ncs/lgc

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