

HOUSE BILL 505

E4

51r0607

By: **Delegates Kramer, Atterbeary, Barkley, Dumais, Fraser–Hidalgo, Kaiser, McComas, and Platt**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement – K–9 Law Enforcement Officers Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain State and local law enforcement agencies to
4 reimburse individuals who take possession of dogs formerly used in law enforcement
5 work for certain veterinary expenses up to a certain amount annually; authorizing
6 certain State law enforcement agencies to accept public donations for the payment
7 of certain veterinary expenses to be held in a separate account not subject to
8 appropriation by the Governor; authorizing certain local law enforcement agencies
9 to establish and maintain a fund to accept public donations for the payment of certain
10 veterinary expenses; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating
11 to dogs formerly used for law enforcement work.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Public Safety

14 Section 3–507

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, Law enforcement dogs have become an integral part of many law
19 enforcement efforts statewide, including suspect apprehension through tracking and
20 searching, evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and search and rescue operations;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies agree that the use of law enforcement dogs
23 is an extremely cost–effective means for crime control and that these dogs possess skills
24 and abilities that frequently exceed the capabilities of existing technology; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The work of law enforcement dogs is often dangerous and can cause
2 these dogs to incur injuries at a rate higher than the rate of injury that occurs with respect
3 to nonworking dogs; and

4 WHEREAS, Law enforcement dogs provide significant contributions to the welfare
5 and safety of residents of Maryland; now, therefore,

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Public Safety**

9 **3–507.**

10 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PUBLICLY OWNED DOGS THAT ARE
11 LICENSED UNDER § 2–313 OF THIS ARTICLE.

12 (B) A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT REMOVES FROM
13 DUTY A DOG USED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK SHALL REIMBURSE AN INDIVIDUAL
14 WHO TAKES POSSESSION OF THE DOG FOR VETERINARY EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE
15 TO THE DOG.

16 (C) REIMBURSEMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:

17 (1) MAY BE ONLY FOR THOSE VETERINARY EXPENSES THAT ARE
18 VERIFIED BY WRITTEN RECEIPT; AND

19 (2) MAY NOT EXCEED \$2,500 DURING A CALENDAR YEAR.

20 (D) (1) A STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ACCEPT PUBLIC
21 DONATIONS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL HOLD THE
22 DONATIONS IN A SEPARATE ACCOUNT THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY
23 THE GOVERNOR.

24 (2) A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ESTABLISH A
25 SEPARATE FUND TO ACCEPT AND MANAGE PUBLIC DONATIONS IN ORDER TO MEET
26 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2015.