

HOUSE BILL 505

E4

5lr0607

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

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2015

CHAPTER _____

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 under certain circumstances for certain veterinary ~~expenses up to a certain~~
6 ~~amount annually~~ treatment; specifying that the reimbursement may not exceed a
7 certain amount of money; authorizing certain State law enforcement agencies to
8 accept public donations for the payment of certain veterinary expenses ~~to be held;~~
9 requiring certain State law enforcement agencies to hold the donations in a separate
10 account not subject to appropriation by the Governor; authorizing certain local law
11 enforcement agencies to establish ~~and maintain a~~ a separate fund to accept public
12 donations for the payment of certain veterinary expenses; providing for the
13 application of this Act; and generally relating to dogs formerly used for law
14 enforcement work.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Public Safety
17 Section 3-507
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

20 Preamble

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, Law enforcement dogs have become an integral part of many law
2 enforcement efforts statewide, including suspect apprehension through tracking and
3 searching, evidence location, drug and bomb detection, and search and rescue operations;
4 and

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

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

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

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

15 **Article – Public Safety**

16 **3-507.**

17 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PUBLICLY OWNED DOGS THAT ARE
18 LICENSED UNDER § 2-313 OF THIS ARTICLE.

19 (B) A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT REMOVES FROM
20 DUTY A DOG USED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK SHALL REIMBURSE AN INDIVIDUAL
21 WHO, UNDER A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,
22 TAKES POSSESSION OF THE DOG ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2015, FOR REASONABLE
23 AND NECESSARY VETERINARY EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TREATMENT PROVIDED TO
24 THE DOG.

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

26 (1) MAY BE ONLY FOR ~~THOSE~~ USUAL AND CUSTOMARY VETERINARY
27 ~~EXPENSES THAT ARE~~ TREATMENT THAT IS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ABUSE OR
28 NEGLECT OF THE DOG AND IS VERIFIED BY WRITTEN RECEIPT; AND

29 (2) MAY NOT EXCEED \$2,500 DURING A CALENDAR YEAR AND \$10,000
30 OVER THE LIFE OF THE DOG.

31 (D) (1) A STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ACCEPT PUBLIC
32 DONATIONS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL HOLD THE

1 DONATIONS IN A SEPARATE ACCOUNT THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY
2 THE GOVERNOR.

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.