

HOUSE BILL 980

M4

8lr2747
CF SB 700

By: **Delegates A. Miller, Frush, Hettleman, Korman, Lam, R. Lewis, McComas, Robinson, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Shelter Animal Refuge**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a
4 Shelter Animal Refuge; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study, analyze, identify, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding certain
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the
9 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the
11 Feasibility of Establishing a Shelter Animal Refuge.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Shelter Animal
15 Refuge.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties; and

2 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) three representatives from the animal welfare nonprofit
4 community; and

5 (ii) two representatives from county-run animal shelters.

6 (c) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members.

7 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Task Force.

8 (e) A member of the Task Force:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
11 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (f) The Task Force shall:

13 (1) study the annual population and save rates for cats and dogs,
14 categorized on a statewide and regional basis, including:

15 (i) the number taken in by animal shelters;

16 (ii) the number adopted by individuals;

17 (iii) the number adopted by rescue organizations;

18 (iv) the number euthanized by animal shelters; and

19 (v) the number euthanized by rescue organizations;

20 (2) analyze the costs of centralized animal refuges, the costs of regional
21 animal refuges, and the differential between centralized and regional animal refuges,
22 including:

23 (i) total costs;

24 (ii) land requirements;

25 (iii) structural requirements;

26 (iv) total capital costs; and

1 (v) total operating costs;

2 (3) identify mechanisms for funding the operational costs of both
3 centralized and regional animal refuge programs;

4 (4) identify other states, countries, and other jurisdictions that have
5 established shelter animal refuges;

6 (5) evaluate operating models for shelter animal refuges, including:

7 (i) the operational strengths and weaknesses of a refuge run by the
8 State; and

9 (ii) the operational strengths and weaknesses of a refuge run by a
10 third-party contractor; and

11 (6) make recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing one or
12 more shelter animal refuges in the State.

13 (g) On or before December 31, 2018, the Task Force shall report its findings and
14 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
15 Government Article, the General Assembly.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
17 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2019, this
18 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
19 further force and effect.