

SENATE BILL 156

E4
SB 412/20 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

1lr0839

By: **Senator Kramer**

Requested: October 3, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Veterinary Care of Retired Law**
3 **Enforcement K-9s Act**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain State and local law enforcement agencies to
5 reimburse individuals who take possession of dogs formerly used in law enforcement
6 work under certain circumstances for certain veterinary treatment; specifying that
7 the reimbursement may be only for certain veterinary treatment and may not exceed
8 a certain amount of money; authorizing certain State law enforcement agencies to
9 accept public donations for the payment of certain veterinary expenses; authorizing
10 certain State law enforcement agencies to accept certain donations; requiring that
11 certain donations accepted by a State law enforcement agency be disbursed to the
12 K-9 Compassionate Care Fund; authorizing certain local law enforcement agencies
13 to establish a separate fund to accept public donations for the payment of certain
14 veterinary expenses; establishing the K-9 Compassionate Care Fund as a special,
15 nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the Department of
16 State Police to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund
17 and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the Fund;
18 specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; providing for the investment
19 of money in and expenditures from the Fund; defining a certain term; providing for
20 the application of this Act; and generally relating to dogs formerly used for law
21 enforcement work.

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Public Safety
24 Section 3-523
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
28 Article – State Finance and Procurement

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
 2 Annotated Code of Maryland
 3 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 5 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 6 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)122. and 123.
 7 Annotated Code of Maryland
 8 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 10 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 11 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)124.
 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
 13 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

14 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

29 **Article – Public Safety**

30 **3–523.**

31 **(A) (1) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PUBLICLY OWNED DOGS THAT**
 32 **ARE LICENSED UNDER § 2–313 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

33 **(2) A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT REMOVES**
 34 **FROM DUTY A DOG USED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK SHALL REIMBURSE AN**

1 INDIVIDUAL WHO, UNDER A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT
2 AGENCY, TAKES POSSESSION OF THE DOG ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2020, FOR
3 REASONABLE AND NECESSARY VETERINARY TREATMENT PROVIDED TO THE DOG.

4 (3) REIMBURSEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

5 (I) MAY BE ONLY FOR USUAL AND CUSTOMARY VETERINARY
6 TREATMENT THAT IS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF THE DOG AND
7 IS VERIFIED BY WRITTEN RECEIPT; AND

8 (II) MAY NOT EXCEED \$2,500 DURING A CALENDAR YEAR AND
9 \$10,000 OVER THE LIFE OF THE DOG.

10 (4) (I) 1. A STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ACCEPT
11 PUBLIC DONATIONS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

12 2. THE REVENUE FROM DONATIONS BY THE PUBLIC
13 SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE K-9 COMPASSIONATE CARE FUND, WHICH IS NOT
14 SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE GOVERNOR, TO BE USED ONLY TO MEET THE
15 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

16 (II) A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ESTABLISH A
17 SEPARATE FUND TO ACCEPT AND MANAGE PUBLIC DONATIONS IN ORDER TO MEET
18 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

19 (B) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE K-9 COMPASSIONATE
20 CARE FUND.

21 (2) THERE IS A K-9 COMPASSIONATE CARE FUND.

22 (3) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FOR VETERINARY
23 CARE OF RETIRED STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION
24 (A) OF THIS SECTION.

25 (4) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE SHALL ADMINISTER THE
26 FUND.

27 (5) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
28 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

29 (II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND
30 SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

31 (6) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

1 **(I) PUBLIC DONATIONS ACCEPTED BY A STATE LAW**
2 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(4) OF THIS SECTION;**

3 **(II) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**
4 **FUND;**

5 **(III) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND**

6 **(IV) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED**
7 **FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

8 **(7) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF**
9 **USUAL AND CUSTOMARY VETERINARY TREATMENT THAT IS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO**
10 **ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF AN ADOPTED FORMER STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DOG THAT**
11 **IS VERIFIED BY WRITTEN RECEIPTS AND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

12 **(8) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**
13 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

14 **(9) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**
15 **THE FUND.**

16 **(10) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN**
17 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

18 **(11) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE VETERINARY CARE**
19 **OF RETIRED STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF**
20 **THIS SECTION IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF**
21 **FUNDING THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE VETERINARY CARE**
22 **OF RETIRED STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS.**

23 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

24 6–226.

25 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless
26 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the
27 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the
28 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to
29 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General
30 Fund of the State.

31 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply
32 to the following funds:

