

# HOUSE BILL 1039

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By: **Delegate D. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly  
4 Housing to study certain matters and make recommendations on how to financially  
5 incentivize the expansion of pet-friendly housing; and generally relating to the Task  
6 Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing.

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

11 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
12 the Senate;

13 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
14 House;

15 (3) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the  
16 Secretary's designee; and

17 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

18 (i) one representative of a county or municipal animal shelter or  
19 animal control organization;

20 (ii) one representative of a nongovernmental animal shelter or  
21 rescue that provides services to individuals in the community;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iii) two representatives of organizations that engage in advocacy on  
2 animal-related issues;

3 (iv) two representatives of organizations that represent landlords in  
4 Maryland; and

5 (v) two representatives of organizations that represent realtors in  
6 Maryland.

7 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

8 (d) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide staff  
9 for the Task Force.

10 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

14 (f) The Task Force shall:

15 (1) study matters relating to pet-friendly housing, including:

16 (i) financial incentives that have potential to influence rental  
17 housing owners to create more pet-friendly housing;

18 (ii) insurance or liability structures that place burdens on the ability  
19 of landlords to offer pet-friendly housing; and

20 (iii) barriers on varied sizes and breeds that prohibit landlords from  
21 allowing pets; and

22 (2) make recommendations on how to financially incentivize the expansion  
23 of pet-friendly housing.

24 (g) On or before November 1, 2024, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
25 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
26 Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of  
29 December 31, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall  
30 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.