



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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SB 412

DATE: February 13, 2020

SPONSOR: Senator Kramer, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (sara.morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

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### Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Veterinary Care of Retired Law Enforcement K-9s Act

Senate Bill 412 would require State and local law enforcement agencies to reimburse individuals adopting publicly owned dogs used for law enforcement (K-9s) for reasonable and necessary veterinary care. A special, non-lapsing “K-9 Compassionate Care Fund” would be established under the bill to cover up to \$2,500 a year for usual and customary veterinary treatment and not to exceed \$10,000 over the life of the dog. Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) supports this bill.

Adopting a retired police dog can be a very rewarding but expensive undertaking on the new owner, according to MCPD. Most of the time, the dogs are retired because of age, generally around 10 years old. While these animals are highly intelligent, the stress of their work can lead to unintended consequences, including behavioral and health changes requiring costly veterinary care. By establishing a non-lapsing K-9 fund to reimburse owners for certain necessary veterinary care, law enforcement will be better positioned to assist adopters with medical bills and provide an opportunity to give these dogs a chance to just be a pet in their final years.

Montgomery County Department of Police supports SB 412 and would urge the Committee to adopt a favorable report.