



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

**SB 159 Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training Requirements
Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

January 18, 2021

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies stands in unanimous support of SB 159. We believe this bill is long overdue and in the best interest of public safety.

There currently are no educational requirements for those entering the role of Animal Control Officer in Maryland. While numerous agencies have internal requirements for training, there are those enforcing state and local laws with little to no formal training. This bill, while requiring 80 hours of initial training within the first 12 months of employment in the position of Animal Control Officer, and 6 hours annually of continuing education, allows for the details of the training to be determined by the agencies based up the unique needs of the jurisdiction and their population.

SB0 159 will raise the professionalism of the field of Animal Control and support our continuing efforts for public safety and best practices in the field.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland respectfully requests a favorable vote on SB0159 Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland