



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**January 19, 2021
Judicial Proceedings Committee**

SB156

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

The Humane Society of the United States and Maryland support SB156, which creates a Compassion Care Fund to enable State and local law enforcement agencies to reimburse individuals who adopt dogs used in law enforcement for the veterinary care they require.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our law enforcement working dogs, who provide services that cannot be replicated by people or machines. These dogs deserve the ability to retire into loving homes once their working years are done. However, veterinary care can be a barrier for some families that would love to adopt these dogs, including their professional handlers, who often wish to adopt the dog they have worked with for so many years. And it is worth noting that, due to the work requirements these dogs face, they are more likely to require veterinary care in after retirement.

This legislation would ensure that retired law enforcement dogs do not fail to receive veterinary care because of financial barriers faced by their owners. We particularly appreciate the authorization of a Compassion Care Fund that individuals could contribute to in order to support this care. We know how passionate people are towards our dogs and especially our working dogs, and believe that this fund would be very successful.

Our working dogs and their handlers deserve the support this bill would provide. We urge a favorable report on SB156.