

President Robert Meffley, District 1  
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**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2110, Elkton, MD 21921

March 2, 2021

The Hon. William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 760 Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty – Petition for Costs for Care of Seized Animal  
Letter of Support

Dear Senator Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports SB 760 Criminal Law- Animal Cruelty- Petition for Costs for Care of Seized Animal, which had been scheduled for hearing on March 10, 2021.

It is our understanding that this legislation will allow that an agency that seizes an animal can file a petition against the owner for reasonable costs for caring for the animal, within seven days that the owner is charged.

The Cecil County Animal Services, under county government, provides animal welfare, adoption, and fostering to the community. Although supported by county funds, the cost of medical treatment and extended care for animals that have been mistreated can be significant. This legislation can benefit our animal services so that costs for reasonable care can be reimbursed by the owner. Without this reimbursement, the county depends on private donations and volunteers to cover these expenses. Some animals must be euthanized because of limited funding.

Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Judiciary Committee consider a favorable report on SB 760.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Meffley  
Council President

Copy: Cecil County Delegation

Copy: Senator Steve Hershey  
Senator Jason Gallion