

President Robert Meffley, District 1

Vice President Jackie Gregory, District 5

Councilman William H. Coutz, District 2

Councilman Al Miller, District 3

Councilman George Patchell, District 4



James Massey
Council Manager

County Council Office
410.996.5201
Fax: 800-865-0587

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2110, Elkton, MD 21921

March 2, 2021

The Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1080 Criminal Law- Animal Cruelty- Petition for Costs for Care of Seized Animal
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Clippinger and members of the Judiciary Committee:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports HB 1080 Criminal Law- Animal Cruelty- Petition for Costs for Care of Seized Animal, which had been scheduled for hearing on March 4, 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 HB 1080.

Sincerely,


Robert Meffley
Council President

Copy: Cecil County Delegation