



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

**PO Box 1143  
Easton, Maryland 21601**

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**HB 191 Department of Agriculture- Spay/Neuter Fund- Extension and Report  
Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee**

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**January 11, 2022**

**Dear Honorable Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the committee:**

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on HB 191

We are proud and thankful for the work of this committee to create the Spay/Neuter Fund, which provides a national model for how to raise revenue for this critical, lifesaving work. We are grateful to the Sponsor and the legislature for proactively looking to renew the Fund and to ensure that it continues to operate. Since the Fund was established in 2014, euthanasia of companion animals across the state have decreased 55% and overall animal intake has dropped 17%. It is estimated that spaying and neutering just one male and one female cat can prevent more than 2,000 unwanted births over four years! The Spay/Neuter Fund is one of the most effective and cost-effective tools existing today for supporting pet owners, easing the burden on our shelters, and improving the lives of companion animals.

We also appreciate the report required in this bill, which would look at potential fee increases and ensure that the program is funded at a level that is functioning at full capacity. Such an analysis would provide this committee with the data we need to determine a fee structure for legislative action in future years.

This is a life-saving and valuable bill that will position legislation next year to ensure the fees are structured at the optimal level. We strongly support reauthorizing the program and a favorable report on HB 191

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