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*Legislative District 21*  
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Environment and Transportation  
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HOUSE BILL 191**

Department of Agriculture - Spay/Neuter Fund - Extension and Report

**January 13, 2022**

**SUPPORT**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. VICE CHAIRMAN AND ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES: I AM PLEASED TO BRING BACK TO YOU HB 191, WHICH REAUTHORIZES THE STATE'S SPAY/NEUTER GRANT FUND. THE FUND WAS CREATED BY A FEE ON COMMERCIAL PET FOOD AND SUPPORTS GRANTS THAT ARE MADE ANNUALLY TO COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SPAY AND NEUTER CATS AND DOGS.

THIS SUCCESSFUL LAW WILL SUNSET IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR, SO WE HAVE TO REAUTHORIZE IT THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. I FIRST BROUGHT THE BILL TO THE COMMITTEE LAST YEAR, HOPING WE COULD ADOPT REAUTHORIZATION IN ADVANCE OF THE EXPIRATION DATE. THE BILL PASSED THE FULL HOUSE BUT WAS NEVER TAKEN UP IN THE SENATE.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LAW IS TO FUND SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES TO  
REDUCE ANIMAL SHELTER OVERPOPULATION AND EUTHANASIA RATES.

WHILE THE PROGRAM HAS RESULTED IN THE SPAY/NEUTER OF 65,216 DOGS AND  
CATS, MARYLAND IS STILL EUTHANIZING A STAGGERING NUMBER OF ANIMALS.  
ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019,  
MARYLAND SHELTERS TOOK IN 86,384 DOGS AND 146,859 CATS. OF THOSE, 22,287  
DOGS AND 75,061 CATS WERE EUTHANIZED. WE MUST DO BETTER. THE ANSWER  
IS SPAYING AND NEUTERING.

THIS IS A CRITICAL LAW FOR REDUCING THE POPULATION OF UNWANTED DOGS  
AND CATS, AND THE EUTHANIZATION RATES OF THOSE ANIMALS. IT IS ESSENTIAL  
THAT WE REAUTHORIZE IT IN THE 2022 SESSION.

MR. CHAIR, COLLEAGUES, I ASK FOR YOUR FAVORABLE REPORT OF HB 191.

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