

# **SB 38 - Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue**

Uploaded by: Charles Hall

Position: FAV



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

January 28, 2022

**American Kennel Club Testimony on SB 38 - Public Safety – Fire and Rescue – Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K–9s**

The American Kennel Club (AKC) provides this written testimony in support of SB 38. By way of introduction, the AKC is the world's largest purebred dog registry. We are a club of more than 5,000 local and breed dog clubs around the country, including 78 clubs in Maryland. Our affiliated clubs maintain America's largest purebred rescue network, and for over 135 years AKC has been proud to be the only non-profit purebred registry devoted to the health and well-being of all dogs.

Existing Chapter 90 of 2021 requires a State or local law enforcement agency that removes a publicly owned dog used in law enforcement work from duty to reimburse an individual who, under a written agreement with the law enforcement agency, takes possession of the dog for reasonable and necessary veterinary treatment provided to the dog. This bill would extend the requirement to a State or local fire and rescue entity that removes from duty a dog used in fire and rescue work.

Like our law enforcement dogs, dogs used in fire and rescue work should be afforded the same gratitude. Oftentimes, these working dogs provide services that cannot readily be performed by humans. When the time comes that they can no longer perform the important service for which they have been trained, they deserve to retire into loving homes. Unfortunately, the cost of veterinary care could be a deterrent for some families that would love to adopt these dogs, including their professional handlers, who often wish to adopt the dog they have worked so close with for many years.

Given the work requirements and conditions these dog work under, they may be more likely require veterinary care in retirement than their companion animal counterparts. Much like the legislation passed last year for law enforcement dogs, this legislation would ensure that retired fire and rescue dogs do not fail to receive veterinary care because of financial barriers faced by their owners. To help offset the cost, this bill also allows individuals to make contributions to the K-9 Compassionate Care Fund that was established in Chapter 90 last year.

Again, AKC supports this bill and believes working dogs and those who would adopt them upon retirement deserve the support this bill would provide. As such, we urge a favorable report on SB 38.

Thank you for reviewing and considering my testimony.

*Charley Hall*

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**SB 38 2022.pdf**

Uploaded by: Harve Woods

Position: FAV

**Maryland Fire Chief's Association  
Legislative Committee**

Hon. William C. Smith, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 1, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith,

The Maryland Fire Chief's Association represents the Operational Leadership of our State's Fire and Rescue Services. We Stand united with Our State's other Fire and Emergency service organizations in **Support of Senate Bill 38**.

Many of us have, or have had, dogs as family members over the years, and we recognize that the dogs that have served as working dogs with Fire and Rescue Organizations are a special type of dog. The Training regimen for these dogs, their working conditions, and many other things make them deserving of the level of care that would be provided to anyone working with them.

The cost of providing care for these dogs should not totally fall on the shoulders of their family and caregivers, The work that these dogs have done should be recognized by the coverage that **Senate Bill 38 will provide**. With that in mind, **We Strongly Support Senate Bill 38**, And respectfully request a favorable report out of Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harve E. Woods, Chairman,  
Legislative Committee,  
Maryland Fire Chief's Association

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Uploaded by: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Position: FAV



**February 1, 2022  
Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**SB38  
*Public Safety - Fire and Rescue - Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K-9s*  
FAVORABLE**

The Humane Society of the United States supports SB38, which expands the Compassion Care Fund established last year to include fire and rescue agencies.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our fire and rescue 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 retirement.

We thank this committee for passing SB156 last year, creating the Compassion Care Fund. This bill is a technical fix to ensure all working dogs – not just law enforcement but also fire and rescue dogs – can be taken care of from this important fund. This legislation would ensure that retired fire and rescue dogs do not fail to receive veterinary care because of financial barriers faced by their owners.

Our fire and rescue working dogs and their handlers deserve the support this bill would provide. We urge a favorable report on SB38.

# **Public Safety - Fire and Rescue- Veterinary Care o**

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411  
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 1, 2022

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Public Safety- Fire and Rescue- Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K -9's- SB 38 - Support

Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Judicial Proceedings Committee vote favorably for Public Safety- Fire and Rescue- Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K -9's- SB 38.

This bill requires that State or local fire and rescue entities to reimburse individuals who take possession of dogs formerly used in fire and rescue work under a written agreement for reasonable and necessary veterinary treatment not to exceed \$2,500 per year. It also permits State fire and rescue entities to accept certain donations and requiring that the donations be disbursed to that fund as well as authorizing local fire and rescue entities to establish a separate fund to accept public donations for the payment of certain veterinary expenses.

Senator Kramer's 2021 bill, SB 156 Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Veterinary Care of Retired Law Enforcement K-9s Acts, required certain State and local law enforcement agencies to reimburse people who adopt retired law enforcement dogs for veterinary expenses and established The Compassionate Care Fund. That bill passed unanimously in the Senate 45-0 and in the House 134-0. This bill, Public Safety- Fire and Rescue- Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K-9's -SB 38 expands the categories of dogs covered by the bill to include dogs used in fire and rescue operations.

Fire and rescue dogs are employed during some of the most dangerous emergency situations, from house fires to natural disasters, explosions, and more. Therefore, the injuries that these brave and highly trained dogs might sustain could not only be life-threatening, but if they are fortunate enough to survive, might require significant veterinary expenses years after the injury. This bill would help to cover those costs for families who are willing to take in a dog who has paid its debt to society. In addition, extending the ability of fire and rescue organizations to accept donations to for The Compassionate Care Fund would further support veterinary care that these dogs receive.

This bill is a win- win. It is a win for the caring person or family who adopts a fire or rescue dog and a win for that dog who gets to live out its golden years in a loving home with support for veterinary care after sacrificing so much to serve our greater community.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator Kramer for sponsoring SB 38 and urge a favorable report.

# **SB38 testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



**Robert P. Phillips**

**Chairman**

Legislative Committee

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## **SB 38 Public Safety – Fire and Rescue – Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K–9s**

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of **SB 38 Public Safety – Fire and Rescue – Veterinary Care of Retired Fire and Rescue K–9s**

This legislation will allow owners of retired K9's from the Fire and Rescue service to be reimbursed for veterinary care the same as law enforcement K9's. The original bill as passed did not include the Fire and Rescue dogs and this bill correct that.

I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you favorably support Senate Bill 38..

Thank you and I'd be glad to answer questions that you might have.