



Bill Title: House Bill 1039- Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: March 7th, 2023

Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). MMHA is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose membership consists of owners and managers of more than 207,246 rental housing homes in more than 937 apartment communities. Our members house over 667,000 residents of the State of Maryland throughout the entire State of Maryland. MMHA membership also includes more than 216 associate members that supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry. More information is available at <https://www.mmhaonline.org/>

House Bill 1039 establishes a task force on incentives for pet friendly housing. The task force would study potential financial incentives for rental property owners to increase pet-friendly housing, insurance or liability structures that place burdens on the ability of landlords to offer pet-friendly housing, and barriers on varied sizes and breeds that prohibit landlords from allowing pets. Based on the study, the task force would then make recommendations to financially incentivize pet-friendly housing.

MMHA supports the inclusion of representatives of organizations that represent landlords to the task force. Housing providers create and implement policies to ensure the safety of their residents. The appointment of these representatives will equip the task force to make a sound policy recommendation. Overall, House Bill 1039 will lay the groundwork for the reasonable expansion of pet-friendly housing.

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1039.

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