



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 7, 2023

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet- Friendly Housing – HB 1039 - Support

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, my name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair 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 House Environment and Transportation Committee vote favorably for: Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet- Friendly Housing – HB 1039.

This bill would establish the Task Force on Financial Incentives for Pet-Friendly Housing to study certain matters and make recommendations on how to financially incentivize the expansion of pet-friendly housing.

Finding affordable housing has been an issue for renters with pets. With Covid exacerbating weaknesses in the housing market, it is time to take a tangible step to help people who face housing insecurity. Often when confronted with these problems, the proposed solutions are in the form of form of regulations and/or penalties. We feel that a Task Force is the most feasible way to engage the opinions of all stakeholders and find a solution that works for everyone.

This bill is a task force as opposed to a similar bill last year sponsored by Delegate Jones which offered a tax credit to landlords who adopted pet friendly policies. When last year's bill did not move out of committee, we met with legislators and stakeholders, and determined that that a task force would allow conversations with all parties involved and yield the best results. This year, Senator Jackson re-introduced last year's Tax Credit bill which was amended to a task force and passed unanimously 45-0 in the Senate. This bill is identical, so we hope to have support from the House for HB 1039.

Thank you to Delegate Dana Jones for introducing this bill. I urge a favorable report for HB 1039.