



# FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL

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County Executive

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### HB 1030 – Criminal Law – Agriculture- Roosters- Restrictions

**DATE:** February 23, 2024  
**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**FROM:** The Office of Frederick County Animal Control

As the Director of Frederick County Office of Animal Control, I strongly urge the committee to give HB 1030 – Criminal Law – Agriculture – Roosters- Restrictions a favorable report.

This bill will establish regulations to deter the breeding and raising of roosters used in the inhumane, brutal, and illegal activity of cockfighting. Limiting the number of roosters per acre or per property will aid in reducing the illegal activity.

Currently, Aggravated Cruelty to Animals- Cockfighting is a felony in Maryland Code, criminal law 10-608. This Senate Bill will work in combination with 10-608 to bolster Maryland's position against cockfighting.

HB 1030 is incredibly important to further the precedent that animal cruelty will not be tolerated. This will not only assist in decreasing these barbaric cases but has the potential to reduce additional crimes committed by these perpetrators. Offenders who commit violent, blood sport crimes against animals are more likely to commit violence against others, possess firearms and narcotics, and gamble illegally. Therefore, it is incredibly important that Maryland makes clear these offenses will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1030. I strongly urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.