



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 85

DATE: February 7, 2024

SPONSOR: Delegate Lehman, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Office of Animal Services)

Department of Agriculture – Spay/Neuter Fund

House Bill 85 provides a mechanism for the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Spay and Neuter Fund to accept donations from private citizens, groups and/or businesses, gives priority to grant applicants who meet specific criteria, and creates a new fee schedule for commercial feed used for dogs and cats.

The American Veterinary Medical Association reports that “[s]paying and neutering prevent unwanted litters, help protect against some serious health problems, and may reduce many of the behavioral problems associated with the mating instinct.” These programs can motivate pet adoptions and help to reduce the number of pets needlessly euthanized in shelters across the State.

The Montgomery County Office of Animal Services supports House Bill 85 which will help to grow and expand spay and neutering services and urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report.