

MICHELE GUYTON
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Baltimore County

—
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

Favorable – HB 912

**Local Government – Trap-Neuter-Return Policies for Community Cats – Requirements and Restrictions
(Ash’s Law)**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 912, which standardizes Trap-Neuter-Return policies so community cat caregivers cannot be charged with animal abandonment. If left unchecked, feral cat colonies can be a hazard to wildlife, pets and human health. There are many organizations that have taken on this challenge to control and vaccinate cat colonies by trapping, neutering (vaccinating), and returning them to their colonies. This is certainly a more humane method of animal control than requiring round ups and euthanasia of healthy cats. It has also been shown to be much more effective. However, in much of Maryland, these practices are prohibited.

Out of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions, seven jurisdictions have laws, with varying and inconsistent terminology, that protect community cat caregivers who are usually working with non-profit organizations to Trap, Neuter, and Return these animals. Eight jurisdictions have active TNR programs working within them but have no protection for these caregivers. Some counties have laws that differ from their local municipalities. For example, Montgomery County and Rockville have different standards and laws on the books for TNR. Rockville protects the practice and Montgomery County does not.

It is time to allow this compassionate and data driven solution to thrive though out our state with consistent regulations that are not punitive toward those who have our communities and animals’ best interests at heart.

I request a favorable report on HB912.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton