



**House Bill 1038**

*Caroline County – Regulation of Animals - Dogs*

Position: FAV

Date: March 12, 2026

To: Government, Labor, and  
Elections

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we write to express our full support for House Bill 1038. This legislation reflects a practical and necessary update to how dog licensing is managed in Caroline County, and we appreciate our local senators bringing this bill forward.

For years, Caroline County has been required under state law to follow a detailed set of procedures for issuing dog licenses, tags, and related enforcement. In reality, compliance with these requirements has been inconsistent at best. Many residents have not abided by the law, and enforcement has become burdensome and ineffective. We are currently required to manage a process that very few residents actually follow, and which delivers limited public benefit in return.

House Bill 1038 gives the County the flexibility to manage dog licensing and animal control in a way that fits our rural population and limited resources. We are already tasked with implementing a wide range of state mandates on everything from public safety to infrastructure, and we do not need more regulation that is outdated, widely ignored, and difficult to enforce.

We are not seeking to eliminate oversight of animals in our county. We are simply asking for the authority to decide how to manage it locally and efficiently. This bill ensures that we can still license dogs if we choose, but without being tied to requirements that no longer make sense for our community.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1038.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President