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DELEGATE, DISTRICT 36  
HOUSE CHAIR

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SENATOR, DISTRICT 36

JOHNNY MAUTZ  
SENATOR, DISTRICT 37



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DELEGATE, DISTRICT 37B

STEVEN J. ARENTZ  
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 36

TOM HUTCHINSON  
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 37B

JAY A. JACOBS  
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 36

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
CAROLINE COUNTY DELEGATION

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, Government, Labor, & Elections Committee  
142 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

*RE: Letter of Support - House Bill 1038 – Caroline County - Regulation of Animals - Dogs*

Chair Wells and Committee Members,

The Caroline County House Delegation supports *House Bill 1038* and asks that it is moved favorably by the committee.

Current law requires any Caroline County resident who owns a dog older than 6 months of age to obtain a license for dog ownership from the county government. Many counties (*including Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, and Somerset*) have the flexibility to require this license if they choose, but Caroline County is mandated to require this license.

*House Bill 1038* simply seeks to change a “*shall*” to a “*may*” and give Caroline County the same flexibility that other counties have regarding dog licensure.

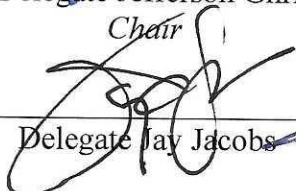
We would be very thankful for the committee to move this bill favorably, and please do not hesitate to contact Chair Ghrist with any questions. The bill is supported unanimously by the House Delegation, please accept their signatures below as our formal tally sheet.


Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate Jefferson Ghrist  
*Chair*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate Christopher Adams

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate Steven Arentz

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate Jay Jacobs

  
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Delegate Thomas S. Hutchinson