

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2025 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-081-2025  
 Chapter No. 59  
 Proposed and Presented by Council Member Watson  
 Introduced by Council Members Watson, Burroughs, Oriadha, Dernoga, Hawkins,  
Olson and Adams-Stafford  
 Co-Sponsors Council Members Blegay, Fisher, and Ivey  
 Date of Introduction October 21, 2025

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

3 For the purpose of creating the Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee;  
 4 providing for the powers and duties of the Committee; providing for the Committee composition,  
 5 terms and officers; providing for meetings; providing for the Committee's advice and annual  
 6 report; and generally regarding animal welfare in the County.

7 BY adding:

8 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

9 Sections 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555 and 2-556,

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
 13 Maryland, that Sections 2-552, 2-553, 2-554, 2-555 and 2-556 of the Prince George's County  
 14 Code be and the same are hereby added:

15 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

16 **DIVISION 49. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY**  
 17 **COMMITTEE.**

18 **Sec. 2-552. Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.**

19 The Prince George's County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is hereby created to  
 20 promote and enhance the welfare of animals and serve as a link between the animal welfare

community and local government.

**Sec. 2-553. Powers and Duties of Committee.**

(a) The Committee shall have the power and duty to:

[(1) Serve as the central point of information for the animal welfare community regarding governmental, non-profit and private programs affecting animal welfare.]

[(2)] (1) Advise the County Executive and County Council on issues and recommendations for animal rescue; animal fostering; humane and ecologically sound control of the animal population; animal bite prevention; education on zoonotic disease transmission; and education of the public on safely coexisting with wildlife.

[(3) Advise the County Executive and County Council on best practices for animal shelters and for recruiting volunteers for the County animal shelter.]

(2) Advise the County Executive and County Council on best practices for animal shelters. Identify successful best practices from animal shelters in other jurisdictions. Review current practices for recruiting and training volunteers for the County animal shelter and make recommendations for improvements.

[(4) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of animal welfare operations on existing laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving the treatment and care of animals.]

[(5)] (3) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of animal welfare operations on potential laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving the treatment and care of animals.

[(6) Work to establish better communication and understanding between the animal welfare community, the County government and the community at large.]

(4) Serve as a facilitator of communication and understanding between the animal welfare community, the County government, and the community at large.

[(7)] (5) Advise the County government on the implementation of state and local initiatives pertaining to, but not limited to, sheltering, keeping, adoption, fostering, rescue, volunteerism, partnership, nonprofits, and charitable giving.

[(8)] (6) Promote public awareness and education regarding responsible pet ownership and animal welfare issues.

[(9)] (7) Collaborate with local organizations and stakeholders to enhance animal

1 welfare programs.

2 [(10)] (8) Report annually to the County Executive and County Council on the status  
 3 of animal welfare in the County.

4 **Sec. 2-554. Committee Composition; Term; Officers.**

5 (a) The Committee shall be composed of [nine] eleven members [(9)] nominated by  
 6 the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The [nine] eleven members shall  
 7 represent each of the following:

8 (1) One member serving as a volunteer from the Prince George's County Animal  
 9 Services Facility and Adoption Center;

10 (2) One member being a licensed veterinarian with pet and wildlife experience;

11 (3) One member of the [Prince George's County Society of the Prevention of  
 12 Cruelty Against Animals (SPCA)] SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County;

13 (4) One member [from a non-profit providing animal fostering services in the  
 14 County] experienced in animal fostering;

15 (5) One member representing an organization providing services for [feral]  
 16 community cats;

17 (6) One member of an animal rescue organization working within the County;

18 (7) One member [representing the] with experience in animal care and behavior,  
 19 outreach, training, to provide guidance in recruiting, training and retaining of shelter volunteers;

20 (8) One member experienced in animal or pet behavior; [and]

21 (9) One public member who lives or works in the County[.];

22 (10) One member of a Community Advocacy Group; and

23 (11) One member who is an expert in breeding.

24 (b) The term of office for each member shall be three years; however, the terms of the  
 25 initial appointments shall be staggered with [three] five members appointed to three-year terms,  
 26 three members appointed to two-year terms, and three members appointed to one-year terms.

27 (c) After an appointment to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the  
 28 rest of the unexpired term.

29 (d) The Committee members must elect annually a Chair and Vice Chair from among its  
 30 voting members. Staff support shall be provided by the County Council.

31 **Sec. 2-555. Meetings.**

1        [The Committee shall meet in public session on call of the Chair. The Committee must  
2        meet as often as necessary to perform and exercise its duties, but not less than 6 times each year.  
3        The public meetings may be held in person or virtually.]

4        The committee shall meet in public session on call of the Chair. Appropriate notice must  
5        be given to the community per the State of Maryland's Open Meetings Act and county public  
6        meeting guidelines. The Committee must meet as often as necessary to perform and exercise its  
7        duties, but not less than 6 prescheduled times each year. The public meetings may be held  
8        virtually or in person. The Chair will conduct these meetings in an atmosphere or collaboration  
9        with the committee members and the public.

10        **Sec. 2-556. Committee's Advice and Annual Report.**

11        The Committee shall advise the County Executive and County Council on issues of interest  
12        to the animal welfare populace, both on the Committee's own initiative and upon the request of  
13        either branch of County government. Further, by July 1 each year, the Committee must submit to  
14        the County Executive and the County Council an annual report on its functions, activities,  
15        accomplishments, plans and objectives. The report should also include any recommendations or  
16        requests it deems appropriate to further the public purpose of the Committee.

17        SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby  
18        declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,  
19        sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of  
20        competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining  
21        words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this  
22        Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such  
23        invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,  
24        or section.

25        SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)  
26        calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

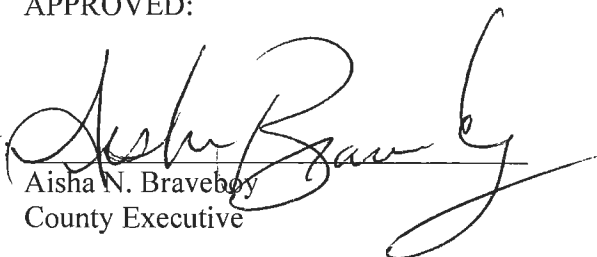
BY:   
Edward P. Burroughs III  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: 12/8/2025

BY:   
Aisha N. Braveboy  
County Executive