

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

1 community and local government.

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

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

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

6 [(2)] (1) Advise the County Executive and County Council on issues and
7 recommendations for animal rescue; animal fostering; humane and ecologically sound control of
8 the animal population; animal bite prevention; education on zoonotic disease transmission; and
9 education of the public on safely coexisting with wildlife.

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

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

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

19 [(5)] (3) Advise the County Executive and County Council regarding the effect of
20 animal welfare operations on potential laws, policies, rules and regulations aimed at improving
21 the treatment and care of animals.

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

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

26 [(7)] (5) Advise the County government on the implementation of state and local
27 initiatives pertaining to, but not limited to, sheltering, keeping, adoption, fostering, rescue,
28 volunteerism, partnership, nonprofits, and charitable giving.

29 [(8)] (6) Promote public awareness and education regarding responsible pet ownership
30 and animal welfare issues.

31 [(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 18th 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: _____ BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive