

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-16-2018
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Date:	July 12, 2018
Action:	FAV(A)

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Franklin, Lehman, Taveras and Toles)

Staff explained that CB-016-2018 amends Subtitle 3. Animal Control of the Prince George's County Code. CB-016-2018 seeks to clarify adequate care, adequate shelter and cruelty, as related to animal welfare, and provides for civil and criminal violations and penalties for violators of the County's animal control laws.

The sponsor indicated that the legislation creates additional protection for animals that are left outdoors and provides enforcement ability to take proactive steps to prevent animal suffering and issues for citizens.

The Department of Environment (DOE) representative indicated support of the Bill; further expressing that DOE is currently compiling an Animal Control Ordinance and this Bill would not cause a conflict with their document.

Office of Law representative indicated support of the legislation. It was further stated that the Bill seeks to add five (5) specific circumstances that will not constitute the provision of adequate shelter. It is advisable that the definition also include standards on how someone that falls under those specific circumstances can comply and provide adequate shelter. Additionally, an exemption should be made, explicitly, for farm animals from these conditions.

A question was raised regarding enforcement relative to fines. The DOE representative indicated that the violator would receive a warning notice prior to a fine.

Regarding specific circumstances that will not constitute the provision of adequate shelter; questions were raised regarding how the temperature of 85 degrees was determined and the timeframe of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The 85 degrees temperature was determined by the veterinary community and the timeframe of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. was mirrored after Virginia regulations.

The County Executive supports CB-016-2018.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that there should not be an adverse fiscal impact on the County. A positive fiscal impact may be realized by the County related to any civil violations

that are assessed to violators of the Animal Control Ordinance.

Judy and Roger McClain, SPCA Humane Society of Prince George's County spoke in support of CB-016-2018 and provided written testimony.

Written testimony was provided in support from The Humane Society of the United States, SPCA Humane Society of Prince George's County, and a Bowie resident, Anita Summers.

CB-016-2018 was voted out of committee with the recommendation that staff further provide qualifying language under DEFINITIONS. (5) Adequate shelter pertaining to animal outdoor confinement, and companion animals.