



Advocacy in Action

Supporting and Opposing Legislation that Impacts Veterinary Professionals in Maryland

Veterinary Issues

Animal Shelters - Standards of Operation (HB 381) - WITHDRAWN

This legislation would have imposed stricter standards for animal shelters to achieve a 90% save rate, effectively converting government-run shelters into no-kill operations. Additionally, it would have strained budgets and limited resources leading to a reduced acceptance rate.



MDVMA and MDA teamed up to protect limited local budgets and shelters from this burdensome bill.

The Veterinary Care of Retired Law Enforcement K-9s Act - (SB 156) PASSED

Weighed in on legislation that will create a fund to support veterinary care for retired law enforcement dogs.



It is vitally important that MDVMA continue to provide statements of support for even the most principled legislation. Doing so builds trust that will lead to lawmakers seeking MDVMA's valuable input in the future.

Legal Issues

Stricter Penalties for Those Who do Harm to Service Animals (HB 234) - PASSED

MDVMA strongly supported this legislation and filed testimony reiterating a veterinarian's sworn oath ensuring all service animals are provided the protective benefit of state statutes to continue their important work for individuals who depend on them.

Economic and Employment Issues

Protecting Maryland Small Businesses from Digital Ad Taxes (SB 787) - PASSED

Last year, Maryland passed the nation's first tax on the revenue from digital advertisements sold by companies like Facebook, Google and Amazon. The new tax is already facing court challenges.

SB 787 counters the new tax by prohibiting advertisers from directly passing on the cost of the tax to customers by means of separate fees, surcharges or other line-item charges.



Many veterinary offices use digital ads as an effective and affordable marketing tool. Knowing this, MDVMA tracked the bill's progress and was ready to take action on behalf of members.

Supporting Small Business Pandemic Relief (HB 612/SB 496) PASSED, SIGNED INTO LAW

The RELIEF Act included direct cash payments to Marylanders, funding to keep organizations running during the pandemic and a swath of new grant and loan programs covering everything from rural and agriculture-based business support, housing, community health providers, behavioral health, childcare, and more. A county-by-county list of COVID-19 Relief programs funded by the passage of this bill can be found at [MarylandTaxes.gov](https://www.marylandtaxes.gov).