

SENATE BILL 545

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1r1031
CF 1r1032

By: **Senator Jennings**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Canine Breeding Facilities**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Canine Breeding Facilities;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a
5 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
7 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
10 to the Task Force to Study Canine Breeding Facilities.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That:

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Canine Breeding Facilities.

14 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

15 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

17 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

19 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee; and

20 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor;

21 (i) a small animal veterinarian with significant experience working
22 with canine breeders; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) an expert in canine behavior with priority given to a specialist
2 from a State university or college.

3 (c) The Governor shall request that a representative from the U.S. Department
4 of Agriculture's Animal Care program participate in the task force.

5 (d) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly
6 designate the chair of the Task Force.

7 (e) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Task Force.

8 (f) A member of the Task Force:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
11 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (g) (1) The Task Force shall study canine breeding facilities, including online
13 sales of canines through breeding facilities.

14 (2) In conducting the study required under paragraph (1) of this
15 subsection, the Task Force shall:

16 (i) review any achievements made in the past 20 years in combating
17 substandard canine breeding practices;

18 (ii) identify and assess current efforts being taken in the State, other
19 states, and the federal government to address substandard canine breeding practices;

20 (iii) identify nongovernmental comprehensive standards for canine
21 breeding and tour facilities in full compliance with those standards;

22 (iv) determine if any gaps exist between current State, federal, and
23 nongovernmental comprehensive standards for canine breeding; and

24 (v) recommend actions necessary to harmonize canine breeding
25 standards in the State with those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

26 (h) On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force shall report its findings and
27 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
28 Government Article, the General Assembly.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this
31 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
32 further force and effect.