**TKC Legislative Liaison Report April 2, 2018 General Meeting**

The February 3, 2018 report had been deferred; to be presented tonight

**HB212 / SB1038:** The House approved and will send to the Senate on April 3, 2018. Any person convicted of certain crimes relating to cruelty to animals will not be allowed to own, possess, or live with any animal for a specified period of time.

**HB242:** Introduced 1//08/18, someone must be authorized to administer the MD Veterans Service Animal Program Fund. A second reading was passed 2/14/18 with the amendment that the Department of Veteran Affairs must publish on their website, the names of donors to the MD VSAAPF.

**HB1134:** A person is prohibited from engaging in certain sexual activities with an animal.

**HB1662:** A hearing on 3/29/18 presented this bill to repeal HB781 put into law April 4, 2017 by Governor Hogan. This bill will remove articles 19-702 & 19-703 specifying the source, history, and health of an animal to the consumer in any retail pet store. Instead, retail pet stores will only be allowed to “showcase” those animals available from local humane societies and animal rescue shelters.

**SB631:** The House & Senate passed the Animal Abuse Emergency Compensation Fund which began October 1, 2017. Any fines, costs, forfeitures, and penalties were to be collected by clerks of the District Court. Funds are to go to those not-for-profit organizations established to promote animal welfare to assist in paying costs to remove and care for animals caught in a criminal situation. Governor Hogan vetoed this on 1/12/18. The bill was repealed with the program expiring on September 30, 2020.

**SB675:** A hearing will be on April 3, 2018 stating that research facilities must provide adoption services through rescue organizations for any dog or cat no longer needed at the research facility.

Thank you for your concern and participation in the Great Club,

Your Legislative Liaison, Diane Horowitz