



F R O M	Name & Title	Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, PhD Interim Commissioner 	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 14-370 Animal Control - Impounding		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

April 29, 2014

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 14-370 Animal Control - Impounding. The purpose of this bill is to allow for the impoundment of an animal reasonably believed to be a public nuisance animal; and generally relating to the impoundment of animals.

This bill gives BCHD's Office of Animal Control more flexibility in dealing with public nuisance complaints (i.e. barking, running at large). A trained Animal Enforcement Officer will be able to interview complainants and determine the credibility of their complaint and take action without having to observe the violation. This change decreases the amount of times an Officer is dispatched to the location in an attempt to hear the barking or see the dog running at large. If the Officer reasonably believes a violation exists, the Officer has the authority to impound the animal pending a hearing process.

For these reasons BCHD supports this bill and will be available at the hearing to answer any additional questions the Committee may have.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Patrick Chaulk, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health  
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health

