

Maryland Humane Scorecard

A Project of The Humane Society of the United States and The Fund for Animals

2003 SESSION

THIS EDITION OF THE *MARYLAND Humane Scorecard* provides information on animal protection legislation considered during the 2003 legislative session. This first year of a four-year session presents a snapshot of how Maryland state legislators vote on animal issues. The *Maryland Humane Scorecard* provides a brief description of the bills considered; an account of how every legislator voted and supported or fought animal protection bills; and telephone numbers and websites. Although much of the drama, negotiation, and discussion on the following bills occurred behind the scenes outside of public view, it's important to know what the animals gained and lost at the end of the day. We hope you will thank legislators who helped protect animals and call to task those who worked against animal protection policies.



Bill Summaries

The following bills were included in the scoring charts, which detail how each member of the Maryland General Assembly voted on bills brought to the floor or to committee vote and list sponsorships and cosponsorships of bills that weren't brought to a vote. Only two bills came before the entire House and Senate, and one of these was unanimously passed while the other was extensively debated.

The House and Senate committees have the first option to kill or pass a bill; therefore, the committee votes recorded in this scorecard are critical. In Maryland's legislature, House and Senate members rely on the individual committees that specialize in certain subjects to delve into the details of each piece of legislation. Few bills proceed to the full House or Senate for consideration. While the final score is based solely on floor votes, sponsorships, and cosponsorships, please take time to review the important committee votes recorded here.

Full Floor Votes

1. Sunday Hunting—House Bill 679

Delegate Charles Boutin (R-34A) introduced H.B. 679, a bill to allow hunting on Sundays in Maryland for the first time in almost 300 years. As the legislation progressed, its scope was narrowed so that hunting on Sunday would be allowed in all but seven Maryland counties on a single Sunday during bow season and a single Sunday during rifle season. Animal protection groups joined bird watchers, equestrians, and nonhunting outdoor enthusiasts to oppose Sunday hunting. Legalizing hunting on Sunday takes away

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the one day a week when people living in or visiting Maryland may safely enter the forest to hike, watch wildlife, and enjoy nature. This bill was portrayed as “deer management” by its supporters, but in reality the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-NR) already had the authority to increase the length of hunting seasons. More hunting does not offer a long-term solution for deer overpopulation—it merely provides time for more recreational killing.

Final Status: H.B. 679 was voted on by the House Environmental Matters Committee and then the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. H.B. 679 passed the Senate by a vote of 33 to 11, with three senators choosing not to vote, and was then passed in the House by a vote of 87 to 41, with 13 delegates choosing not to vote. It was signed into law by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., despite more than 3,000 phone calls to his office voicing opposition to the bill. A vote against the legislation is the pro-animal vote and is designated by a ✓ symbol.

2. Animal Fighting—House Bill 624

Sponsored for the second year by Delegate Charles Boutin (R-34A) and cosponsored by Delegate Luiz Simmons (D-17) and 31 other delegates, this legislation would have sealed loopholes in the current animal fighting law by making it a crime to knowingly attend a cockfight as a spectator, as is already the case for dogfighting. H.B. 624 also would have made it a crime to possess, own, sell, transport, or train a dog or bird for the purpose of fighting. And the bill would have made it illegal to possess specified implements or devices related to dogfighting or cockfighting, including those used to train the animals to fight. These are critical areas because Maryland is now one of six states that allow the ownership of dogs for fighting and one of 10 that fail to provide penalties for attending a cockfight.

Final Status: The House Judiciary Committee passed the bill after removing the provision relating to fighting implements. It was then unanimously passed by the full House. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee further amended the bill, leaving only criminal penalties for being a spectator at a cockfight. The bill passed the Senate unanimously in its new form on the last day of the session. Although the bill was sent back to the House for final



H.B. 624 promised to seal loopholes in Maryland's animal fighting law but was first stripped and then rendered dead.

approval, it was never brought up for a vote and therefore was considered dead. This legislation will be filed again in the 2004 session. A ✓ indicates support for closing the loophole and further protecting animals.

Bills That Did Not Go to the Full Floor

1. Gestation Crate Ban—Senate Bill 271 and House Bill 755

This legislation introduced by Senator Sharon Grosfeld (D-18) and Delegate James Hubbard (D-23A) was similar to the successful anti-cruelty initiative in Florida in 2002. The bills would have prohibited pregnant pigs from being confined to cages so small that they do not even have enough room to turn around. In many factory farms, female pigs are kept in two-by-seven-foot metal crates for the entire length of their pregnancies—almost four months. After the gestation period, they are moved to another cage to have their piglets, only to be inseminated again and put back in gestation crates for the duration of their next pregnancies—another four months. This cycle can go on for as long as four years. Industrial



H.B. 755 would have banned gestation crates but was killed in committee, and sister legislation S.B. 271 was withdrawn.

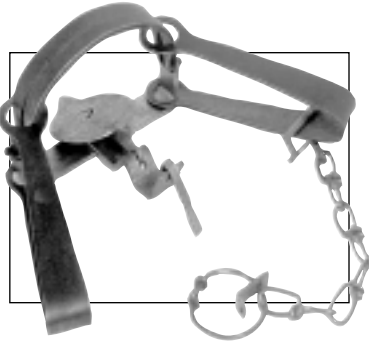
hog farms use gestation crates to pack as many animals into each barn as possible. Such intensive farming practices involve prolonged and intense suffering and result in tremendous water pollution, creating a huge environmental hazard. For the tiny handful of Maryland farms that use these crates, a five-year phaseout was included in the bills.

Final Status: The House Environmental Matters Committee killed H.B. 755 by a margin of 13 to 8. Given the House committee's action, the Senate sponsor withdrew S.B. 271 from consideration. It will be reintroduced in the House and Senate in 2004. Votes in the House Environmental Matters Committee are scored, as well as cosponsorships for the full House and Senate.

2. Leghold Trap Ban—Senate Bill 272 and House Bill 365

Delegate Barbara Frush (D-21) and Senator Sharon Grosfeld (D-18) sponsored this legislation to establish a statewide prohibition against using, setting, placing, or maintaining cruel and indiscrim-

inate leghold traps. Animals trapped with these devices—often so-called “nontarget” animals like family pets or protected species—can suffer crushed bones, torn tendons, and other serious injuries. Victims sometimes twist or chew off their own limbs to escape. The American Veterinary Medical Association, the World Veterinary Association, and the American Animal Hospital Association have declared steel-jaw leghold traps “inhumane.” Eighty-nine other nations have banned the use of these barbaric devices.



S.B. 272 and H.B. 365 to ban the use of steel-jaw leghold traps will be reintroduced in 2004.

Final Status: This bill was not voted on and is on hold until the 2004 session. Sponsors and cosponsors in both chambers are listed. Delegate Frush and Senator Grosfeld plan to reintroduce the bills in 2004.

3. Black Bear Hunting Moratorium—House Bill 629

Delegate Barbara Frush (D-21) sponsored this bill to ward off any attempt to allow a bear hunting season by Governor Ehrlich and the MDNR. In 2002, former Governor Parris Glendening strongly opposed a sport hunt on Maryland’s small population of black bears and even took part in creating a black bear stamp program to help reduce bear-human conflicts. But Governor Ehrlich has indicated that he is likely to allow a hunt of Maryland’s black bears.

H.B. 629 included a six-year moratorium on hunting bears and called for a scientific population study during the fifth year so that accurate information would be available to guide state policy. Current estimates are that just 250 to 450 black bears live in Maryland, although the MDNR has admitted that the actual population numbers are unknown. Even a limited hunt could cause irreparable damage and jeopardize the survival of such a small population. Black bears are already at risk due to development and habitat fragmentation and intensive hunting in bordering states, in addition to being among the slowest mammals to reproduce. Based on public comments on the Black Bear Task Force report, Maryland citizens are against a trophy bear hunt by a 5 to 1 ratio.



H.B. 629 would have prohibited bear hunting but was killed in committee.

to being among the slowest mammals to reproduce. Based on public comments on the Black Bear Task Force report, Maryland citizens are against a trophy bear hunt by a 5 to 1 ratio.

Final Status: The House Environmental Matters Committee killed the bill by a vote of 15 to 6. No Senate version was filed. Sponsorships, cosponsorships, and votes by the committee are scored; a ✓ symbol indicates a vote in favor of the hunting moratorium.

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Quick Reference

THE LEGISLATIVE, COMMITTEE, AND BILL PROCESS IN MARYLAND*

IDEAS FOR BILLS (PROPOSED LAWS) COME FROM MANY sources: the governor, government agencies, legislative committees, study commissions, special interest groups, lobbyists, professional associations, and—most importantly—constituents. The bill process is as follows: a constituent or coalition of organizations and individuals will contact a legislator with an idea. If the legislator likes the idea, he or she may request that it be drafted to meet constitutional standards and translated into appropriate “language” as a bill. The legislator, now called the “sponsor” of the bill, “drops” the bill (meaning that it is officially proposed) and it is assigned a number. The bill is assigned to a legislative committee that specializes in related subject matter. This committee will have a public hearing on it, presenting an opportunity for the sponsor and anyone who has interest in the legislation to come forward and voice support or opposition. The committee then considers the bill, often amending it by adding new language or removing portions of it. The final committee vote may be favorable (with or without amendment), unfavorable, or without recommendation. If voted out of committee (passed), the bill returns to the floor accompanied by a report of committee action. The leadership of the chamber the bill is in decides whether or not to bring it up for a vote. The bill can be altered on the floor, as well. If the entire House passes a bill, it will cross over to the Senate for consideration by the appropriate committee and then by the full Senate. In each chamber the bill will be voted on three times (once in committee and twice on the floor). It can be altered at any time up until the third reading, when the vote is pass or fail. The bill must receive a majority vote of the elected membership to pass.

If amended in the second chamber, the bill is returned to the chamber of origin for consideration of the amendments. If the amendments are agreed to, the bill is voted on as amended and action is complete. The bill is reprinted, or “enrolled,” to include the amendments before being submitted to the governor. If the amendments are rejected, the amending chamber may be asked to withdraw its amendments. If it refuses, either chamber may request that a conference committee be appointed to resolve the differences between the two chambers. If both chambers agree on the amended version or have passed identical legislation, the bill goes to the governor for signature into law or veto. If vetoed, the legislature can take up the vetoed bill among its first order of business the next time it meets, either in a special session or at the start of the next session. A vetoed bill requires a vote passed by three-fifths of the legislature to become law. Vetoed bills are not taken up in a new general assembly, which immediately follows an election.

*Adapted from www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/proc.html

Committee Votes

House Environmental Matters Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	H.B. 629 (Black Bear Hunting Moratorium)	H.B. 755 (Gestation Crate Ban)	H.B. 679 (Sunday Hunting)
Maggie McIntosh-Chair (D-43)	▼	▼	▼
James Malone Jr.-Vice Chair (D-12A)	x	x	x
John Arnick (D-6)	x	x	x
Kumar Barve (D-17)	x	✓	x
Elizabeth Bobo (D-12B)	✓	✓	✓
Joseph C. Boteler (R-8)	x	x	x
William Bronrott (D-16)	✓	✓	x
Rudolph Cane (D-37A)	x	x	x
Virginia Clagett (D-30)	✓	✓	✓
Barbara Frush (D-21)	Sponsor	✓	✓
Patrick Hogan (R-3A)	x	x	x
Marvin Holmes (D-23B)	x	x	x
J. B. Jennings (R-7)	x	x	x
Tony McConkey (R-33A)	x	x	x
Karen Montgomery (D-14)	✓	✓	x
George Owings III (D-27B)	x	x	x
Rosetta C. Parker (D-47)	x	✓	x
Kenneth Schisler (R-37B)	x	x	x
Richard Sossi (R-36)	x	x	✓
Joan Stern (D-39)	✓	✓	✓
Paul Stull (R-4A)	x	x	x
Michael Weir Jr. (D-6)	x	x	x

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	H.B. 679 (Sunday Hunting)
Paula C. Hollinger-Chair (D-11)	▼
Joan Carter Conway-Vice Chair (D-43)	▼
Gwendolyn Britt (D-47)	x
Richard Colburn (R-37)	x
Roy Dyson (D-29)	x
Janet Greenip (R-33)	x
Sharon Grosfeld (D-18)	◆
Andrew P. Harris (R-7)	▼
Paul G. Pinsky (D-22)	▼
Sandra B. Schrader (R-13)	x
Norman R. Stone Jr. (D-6)	x

Floor Votes and Cosponsorships

Votes in the Maryland Senate

SENATE MEMBERS	H.B. 679 (Sunday Hunting) Floor Vote	S.B. 271 (Gestation Crate Ban) No Floor Vote	S.B. 272 (Leghold Trap Ban) No Floor Vote	Perfect Scores
John Astle (D-30)	x			
David Brinkley (R-24)	x			
Gwendolyn Britt (D-47)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Jim Brochin (D-42)	x			
Richard Colburn (R-37)	x -			
Joan Carter Conway (D-43)	▼			
Ulysses Currie (D-25)	▼			
James DeGrange Sr. (D-32)	x			
George Della Jr. (D-46)	x			
Roy Dyson (D-29)	x			
Nathaniel Exum (D-24)	▼			
Jennie Forehand (D-17)	✓			
Brian Frosh (D-16)	✓			
Rob Garagiola (D-15)	x			
John Giannetti Jr. (D-21)	x			
Lisa Gladden (D-41)	x		Cosponsor	
Leo Green (D-23)	x			

KEY FOR TERMS AND SYMBOLS

Sponsor
The legislator who takes the initial interest in the issue, requests that it be drafted and introduced as legislation, and provides leadership for the bill

Cosponsor
A legislator who signs his or her name to a bill after the sponsor has drafted it, lending official support and real commitment to the legislation

Symbols

- ✓ A vote for the animals
- x A vote against the animals
- ◆ Excused absence from the vote
- ▼ Present but chose not to register a vote
- Publicly spoke against animal protection bills
- + Publicly spoke in support of animal protection bills

Votes in the Maryland Senate (CONT)

SENATE MEMBERS (CONT)	H.B. 679 (Sunday Hunting) Floor Vote	S.B. 271 (Gestation Crate Ban) No Floor Vote	S.B. 272 (Leghold Trap Ban) No Floor Vote	Perfect Scores
Janet Greenip (R-33)	x			
Sharon Grosfeld (D-18)	✓ +	Sponsor	Sponsor	100+
John Hafer (R-1)	x			
Larry Haines (R-5)	x			
Andrew P. Harris (R-7)	✓			
Patrick Hogan (R-39)	x			
Paula C. Hollinger (D-11)	x			
J. Robert Hooper (R-35)	✓			
Ralph Hughes (D-40)	x			
Nancy Jacobs (R-34)	x			
Philip Jimeno (D-31)	x			
Verna Jones (D-44)	✓	Cosponsor		
Edward Kasemeyer (D-12)	x			
Delores Kelley (D-10)	x			
Robert Kittleman (R-9)	x			
Katherine Klausmeier (D-8)	x			
Rona Kramer (D-14)	x		Cosponsor	
Gloria Lawlah (D-26)	x			
Nathaniel McFadden (D-45)	x			
Thomas Middleton (D-28)	x			
Thomas "Mike" Miller Jr. (D-27)	x			
Alexander Mooney (R-3)	x			
Donald Munson (R-2)	x			
Paul Pinsky (D-22)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
E. J. Pipkin (R-36)	x			
Ida Ruben (D-20)	✓			
Sandra B. Schrader (R-13)	✓			
J. Lowell Stoltzfus (R-38)	x			
Norman R. Stone Jr. (D-6)	x	Cosponsor		
Leonard Teitelbaum (D-19)	✓			

Scoring Explanation

Members are given credit for supporting and sponsoring and cosponsoring animal protection bills. Members who supported all of the animal protection bills by voting favorably or who opted to cosponsor all animal protection legislation earned a score of **100**. Members who voted in support of all animal protection bills and sponsored a bill and/or stood up to voice support for animal protection earned a score of **100+**. Committee votes are not given a numeric score.

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Votes in the Maryland House of Delegates

HOUSE MEMBERS	H.B. 679 (Sunday Hunting) Floor Vote	H.B. 624 (Animal Fighting) Unanimous Passage	H.B. 365 (Leghold Trap Ban) No Floor Vote	H.B. 755 (Gestation Crate Ban) No Floor Vote	Perfect Scores
Carmen Amedori (R-5A)	x	✓			
Curt Anderson (D-43)	x	✓			
John Arnick (D-6)	x	✓			
Susan L. M. Aumann (R-42)	x	✓			
Charles Barkley (D-39)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor		
Joseph Bartlett (R-4A)	x	✓			
Kumar Barve (D-17)	x	✓			
Gail Bates (R-9A)	x	✓			
Joanne Benson (D-24)	✓	Cosponsor		Cosponsor	
Elizabeth Bobo (D-12B)	✓	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
John Bohanan Jr. (D-29B)	x	✓			
David Boschert (R-33A)	x	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	
Joseph C. Boteler (R-8)	x	✓			
Charles Boutin (R-34A)	x Sponsor	Sponsor			
K. Bennett Bozman (D-38B)	x	✓			
Talmadge Branch (D-45)	x	✓			
Eric Bromwell (D-8)	x	✓			
William Bronrott (D-16)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Anthony Brown (D-25)	x	✓			
Emmett Burns Jr. (D-10)	✓	✓			
Michael Busch (D-30)	x	✓			

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Votes in the Maryland House of Delegates (CONT)

HOUSE MEMBERS (CONT)	H.B. 679 (Sunday Hunting) Floor Vote	H.B. 624 (Animal Fighting) Unanimous Passage	H.B. 365 (Leghold Trap Ban) No Floor Vote	H.B. 755 (Gestation Crate Ban) No Floor Vote	Perfect Scores
Joan Cadden (D-31)	▼	✓			
Rudolph Cane (D-37A)	x	✓			
Jon S. Cardin (D-11)	✓	✓			
Jill Carter (D-41)	x	✓			
Galen Claggett (D-3)	x	✓			
Virginia Claggett (D-30)	✓+	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100+
Mary Conroy (D-23A)	✓	✓			
Norman Conway (D-38)	▼	✓			
Bob Costa (R-33B)	x	Cosponsor			
Jean Cryor (R-15)	✓	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Clarence Davis (D-45)	✓	✓			
Dereck Davis (D-25)	x	✓			
Steven J. DeBoy Sr. (D-12A)	x	✓			
John Donoghue (D-2C)	x	Cosponsor			
Ann Marie Doory (D-43)	x	✓			
Kathleen Dumais (D-15)	✓	Cosponsor			
Don Dwyer (R-31)	x	✓			
Adelaide Eckardt (R-37B)	▼	✓			
George Edwards (R-1A)	x	✓			
Donald Elliot (R-4B)	x	Cosponsor			
D. Page Elmore (R-38A)	x	✓			
Brian Feldman (D-15)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor		
Peter Franchot (D-20)	✓	✓			
William Frank (R-42)	x	✓			
Barbara Frush (D-21)	✓	Cosponsor	Sponsor	Cosponsor	100+
Tony Fulton (D-40)	x	Cosponsor			
Tawanna Gaines (D-22A)	✓	✓	Cosponsor		
Barry Glassman (R-35A)	x	✓			
Marilyn Goldwater (D-16)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Michael R. Gordon (D-17)	x	✓			
Melony Griffith (D-25)	▼	✓			
Ana Sol Gutierrez (D-18)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Peter Hammen (D-46)	✓	✓			
Hattie Harrison (D-45)	x	✓			
Keith E. Hayes (D-44)	x	✓			
Anne Healey (D-22)	✓	✓	Cosponsor		
Henry Heller (D-19)	x	✓			
William Louis Hennessy (R-28)	x	✓			
Sheila Ellis Hixson (D-20)	x	Cosponsor			
Patrick Hogan (R-3A)	x	✓			
Marvin Holmes (D-23B)	✓	✓			
Carolyn Howard (D-24)	✓	✓			
James Hubbard (D-23A)	✓	✓	Cosponsor	Sponsor	100+
John Hurson (D-18)	x	Cosponsor		Cosponsor	
Rick Impallaria (R-7)	x	✓			
Mary-Dulany James (D-34A)	▼	✓			
Sally Jameson (D-28)	x	✓			
J. B. Jennings (R-7)	x	✓			
Adrienne Jones (D-10)	✓	✓			
A. Wade Kach (R-5B)	x	Cosponsor			
Ann Kaiser (D-14)	✓	✓			
Darryl A. Kelley (D-26)	x	✓			
Kevin Kelly (D-1B)	x	✓			
Nancy King (D-39)	✓	✓			
Ruth Kirk (D-44)	x	✓			
Susan Krebs (R-9B)	x	✓			
Carolyn Krysiak (D-46)	x	✓			
Susan Lee (D-16)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
John Leopold (R-31)	x	Cosponsor			
Mary Ann Love (D-32)	x	✓			
Richard S. Madaleno Jr. (D-18)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
James Malone Jr. (D-12A)	x	✓			

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Adrienne Mandel (D-19)	✓	✓	Cosponsor		
Salima Siler Marriott (D-40)	▼	Cosponsor			
Susan McComas (R-35B)	x	✓			
Tony McConkey (R-33A)	x	✓	Cosponsor*		
Pat McDonough (R-7)	x	Cosponsor			
Brian McHale (D-46)	x	✓			
Maggie McIntosh (D-43)	x	✓			
Robert McKee (R-2A)	✓	✓			
Herb McMillan (R-30)	x	✓			
Pauline Menes (D-21)	✓	✓			
Warren E. Miller (R-9A)	x	✓			
Joseph "Sonny" Minnick (D-6)	x	▼			
Van Mitchell (D-28)	▼	✓			
Brian Moe (D-21)	▼	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	
Karen Montgomery (D-14)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Dan Morhaim (D-11)	✓	✓			
Gareth Murray (D-20)	✓	Cosponsor			
LeRoy Ellsworth Myers Jr. (R-1C)	x	✓			
Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D-10)	▼	Cosponsor	Cosponsor		
Doyle Niemann (D-47)	x	✓			
Nathaniel Oaks (D-41)	x	Cosponsor		Cosponsor	
Anthony O'Donnell (R-29C)	x	Cosponsor			
George Owings III (D-27B)	x	Cosponsor			
Jeffery Paige (D-44)	x	✓			
Rosetta C. Parker (D-47)	x	✓			
Joanne Parrott (R-35A)	x	✓			
Obie Patterson (D-26)	x	✓			
Shane Pendergrass (D-13)	x	✓			
Carol Petzold (D-19)	x	✓	Cosponsor		
James Proctor Jr. (D-27A)	▼	✓			
Neil Quinter (D-13)	x	✓			
Victor Ramirez (D-47)	x	✓			
Howard Rawlings (D-40)	▼	✓			
Alfred Redmer Jr. (R-8)	x	Cosponsor			
Samuel Rosenberg (D-41)	x	✓			
Justin Ross (D-22)	▼	✓	Cosponsor		
David Rudolph (D-34B)	x	✓			
James Rzepkowski (R-32)	x	Cosponsor	Cosponsor		
Kenneth Schisler (R-37B)	x	✓			
Christopher Shank (R-2B)	✓	✓			
Luiz Simmons (D-17)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor		
Michael D. Smigiel (R-36)	x	Cosponsor			
Theodore Sophocleus (D-32)	x	✓			
Richard Sossi (R-36)	✓	✓			
Joan Stern (D-39)	✓	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	Cosponsor	100
Nancy R. Stocksedale (R-5)	x	✓			
Paul Stull (R-4A)	x	Cosponsor			
Herman Taylor (D-14)	✓	✓			
John G. Trueschler (R-42)	x	✓			
Frank Turner (D-13)	✓	✓	Cosponsor		
Veronica Turner (D-26)	x	✓			
Joseph Vallario Jr. (D-27A)	▼	✓			
Michael Vaughn (D-24)	x	✓			
Mary Roe Walkup (R-36)	✓	✓			
Michael Weir Jr. (D-6)	x	✓			
Richard Weldon Jr. (R-3B)	x	✓			
John Wood Jr. (D-29A)	x	✓			
Robert Zirkin (D-11)	✓	✓			

*Cosponsored bill but voted against it in subcommittee

Scoring Explanation

Members are given credit for supporting and sponsoring and cosponsoring animal protection bills. Members who supported all of the animal protection bills by voting favorably or who opted to cosponsor all animal protection legislation earned a score of 100. Members who voted in support of all animal protection bills and sponsored a bill and/or stood up to voice support for animal protection earned a score of 100+. Committee votes are not given a numeric score.

To find out who represents you, call the Maryland General Assembly or go to <http://mdelect.net>.

KEY FOR TERMS AND SYMBOLS

- Sponsor**
The legislator who takes the initial interest in the issue, requests that it be drafted and introduced as legislation, and provides leadership for the bill
- Cosponsor**
A legislator who signs his or her name to a bill after the sponsor has drafted it, lending official support and real commitment to the legislation

- Symbols**
- ✓ A vote for the animals
 - x A vote against the animals
 - ❖ Excused absence from the vote
 - ▼ Present but chose not to register a vote
 - Publicly spoke against animal protection bills
 - + Publicly spoke in support of animal protection bills

Committee Votes

The House Environmental Matters Committee was the first committee to take up the issue of gestation crates (H.B. 755). While the bill failed in its first year, special credit should be given to Delegates William Bronrott (D-16), Elizabeth Bobo (D-12B), and Barbara Frush (D-21) for their outspoken support of the bill. Jeers should go to freshman Delegate J. B. Jennings (R-7), who within hours of voting sent an e-mail to Maryland citizens celebrating the defeat of H.B. 755.

Six members of this same committee form a subcommittee that had the opportunity to consider H.B. 365, the bill to ban leghold traps. Of note were the actions of Delegate Tony McConkey (R-33A), who cosponsored the bill but voted *against* it when given the opportunity.

What You Can Do

On these and other issues, the powerful influence of business and big money can overwhelm the interests of concerned citizens. So we must combine our efforts and amplify our voices to be sure legislators hear from us. Fortunately, Maryland legislators are easily accessible and must answer directly to the people! We cannot succeed in making real and positive change for animals without your active participation and that of thousands of Marylanders like you.

We hope you'll study this scorecard and use it as a tool to ensure that your legislators represent your interests in Annapolis. Let legislators know that you're watching and you appreciate their support of pro-animal legislation. If they haven't done enough, let them know you'd like to see them do more. Make phone calls, write letters, and visit them whenever you can. A short letter from you may change how they vote on a bill. The HSUS and The Fund for Animals acknowledge the inherent limitations of judging a legislator on the basis of a few select votes and cosponsorships. While many factors of public service are important, the votes recorded in this scorecard will have a tangible effect on animals. We hope you'll raise these issues in your dialogue with your legislators. Your efforts in bringing them to your legislators' attention may greatly improve their scores—and the lives of animals—in the future.

What Else Can You Do?

Join the Humane Activist Network, a joint project of The HSUS and The Fund for Animals. This is a unique opportunity to hear about issues like those mentioned here at the state and national level. We'll contact you when a call or letter is needed and when legislation is at a critical point. You can decide then if you have the time to act! We try to make your action *easy* and *effective* every time. Please join today!

You can join the Humane Activist Network by signing up online at www.hsus.org/ace/12774, calling 202-955-3665 or 301-585-2591, Ext. 204, or e-mailing jgoodwin@hsus.org or pgzybowski@fund.org.

Helpful Numbers and Websites

THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE: <http://mlis.state.md.us>

TO FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS: www.mdelect.net or <http://action.fund.org/directory>

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY GENERAL INFORMATION: 410-841-3000

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES: www.hsus.org

QUESTIONS ON STATE LEGISLATION: 202-955-3661 or jjanovsky@hsus.org

THE FUND FOR ANIMALS: www.fund.org

QUESTIONS ON STATE LEGISLATION: 301-585-2591, Ext. 209, or rfrye@fund.org

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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