

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 13-2024**

Introduced: March 4, 2024

Auditor: Diane Zagorski-Kelly

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Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation would include the purchase of additional traps and holding cages costing approximately \$26,000, based on information provided by Howard County's Animal Control Division.

If Council Bill 13-2024 passes, the additional equipment would be acquired in Fiscal Year 2025 using General Fund appropriations.

Purpose:

Council Bill 13-2024 seeks to establish a Trap-Neuter-Return program, with the assistance of local animal care organizations, in order to humanely reduce the population of community cats.

Other Comments:

The Animal Control Division has stated it will need at least 90 days to make the community aware of this new program. It also anticipates a need for 20 new traps and four new holding cages to manage an assumed increase in trapping activities and ear-tipped cats entering its shelter facility.

The Animal Control Division stated that prior to the filing of Council Bill 13-2024, it has been engaged in planning efforts for a potential expansion of its facility.

Other Maryland jurisdictions (including Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore Counties) participate in a similar Trap-Neuter-Return program.