HOUSE BILL 186

D1, D2 1lr0397 (PRE–FILED) CF SB 7

By: **Delegate Malone** Requested: June 29, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

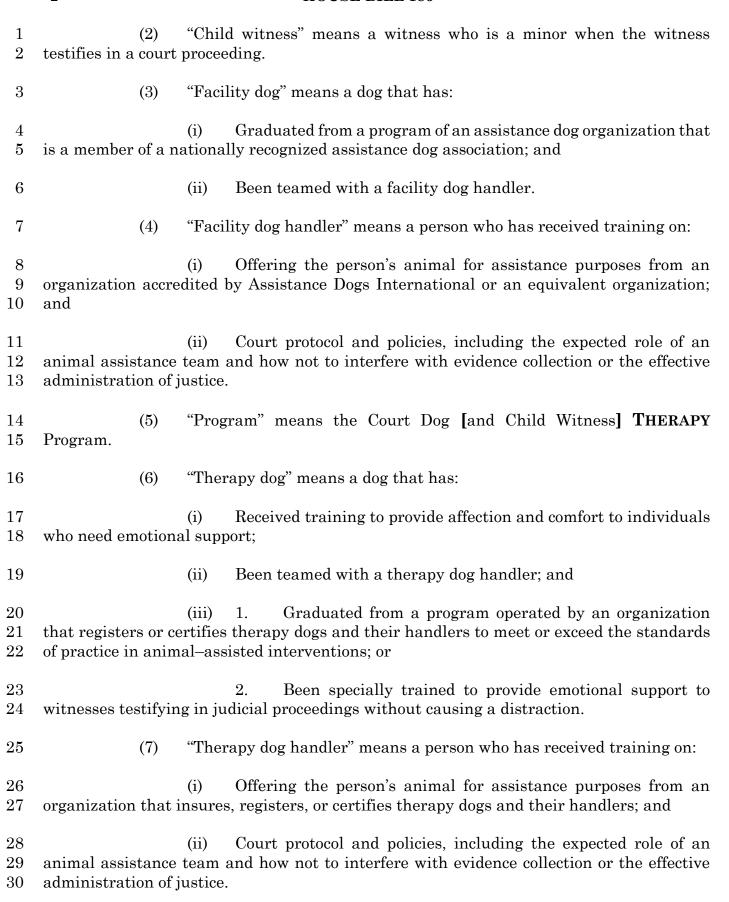
1 AN ACT concerning

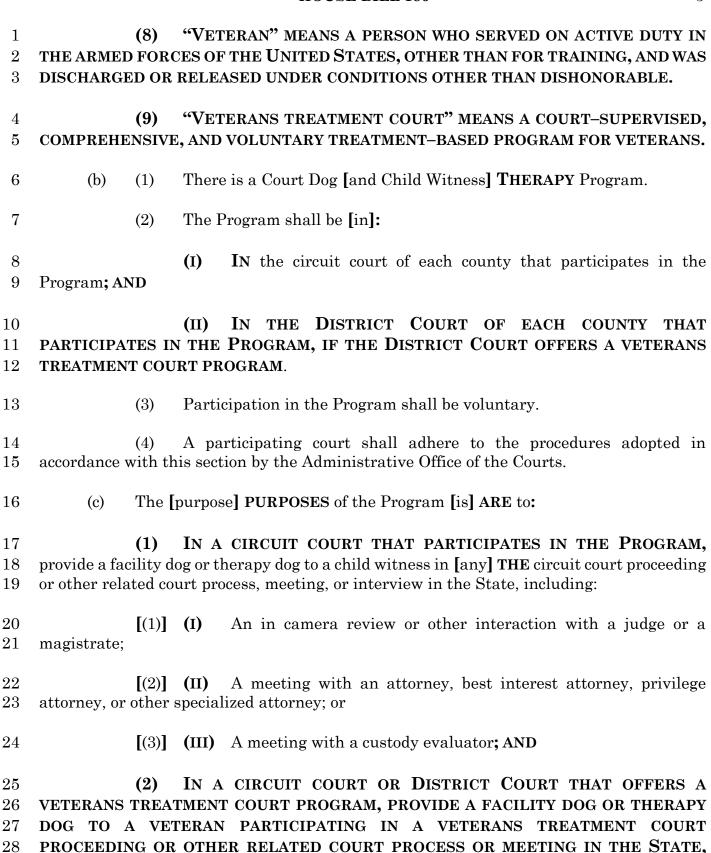
2 Courts - Court Dog Therapy Program - Veterans Treatment Courts

- 3 FOR the purpose of renaming the Court Dog and Child Witness Program to be the Court 4 Dog Therapy Program; expanding the application of the Program to veterans 5 participating in a certain veterans treatment court; establishing that the Program 6 shall be in the circuit court of each county that participates in the Program and in 7 the District Court of each county that participates in the Program under certain 8 circumstances; altering the purpose of the Program; defining certain terms; making 9 clarifying and conforming changes; and generally relating to the Court Dog Therapy 10 Program.
- 11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 12 Article Courts and Judicial Proceedings
- Section 9–501 to be under the amended subtitle "Subtitle 5. Court Dog Therapy
- 14 Program"
- 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 16 (2020 Replacement Volume)
- 17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

- 20 Subtitle 5. [Court Dog and Child Witness Program] COURT DOG THERAPY PROGRAM.
- 21 9-501.
- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.





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INCLUDING:

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October 1, 2021.

1	(II) A MEETING WITH AN ATTORNEY; OR
2	(III) A MEETING WITH A PROBATION, PRETRIAL, OR COURT CASE
3	MANAGER.
4	(d) To accomplish the purpose of the Program, the Administrative Office of the
5	Courts shall:
6	(1) Develop a plan to implement the Program;
7	(2) Establish the procedures that a party in a court proceeding must follow
8	to request that a therapy dog and therapy dog handler or facility dog and facility dog
9	handler assist a child witness OR A VETERAN PARTICIPATING IN A VETERANS
10	TREATMENT COURT; and
11	(3) Ensure that the details of the Program are publicly available.
12	(e) The Administrative Office of the Courts may adopt procedures to implement
13	this section.
14	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect