
By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to Environmental Matters, March 13, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2003

CHAPTER 192

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County - Animal Control Enabling Law**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the type of animal control authority for Washington
4 County to be a quasi-judicial deliberative body; establishing certain duties of
5 the animal control authority; transferring certain duties of the animal control
6 authority to a certain private agency or department of county government;
7 authorizing the County Commissioners for Washington County to adopt an
8 animal control ordinance to designate a certain private agency or department of
9 county government to carry out certain duties; and generally relating to the
10 powers of the County Commissioners for Washington County to adopt an animal
11 control ordinance.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article 25 - County Commissioners
14 Section 236A
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 25 - County Commissioners**

20 236A.

21 The County Commissioners for Washington County may adopt an animal
22 control ordinance to:

1 (1) Create [an] A QUASI-JUDICIAL DELIBERATIVE animal control
2 authority for Washington County to:

3 (I) HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DECIDE CITATIONS, COMPLAINTS,
4 AND OTHER CONTROVERSIES ARISING UNDER THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE,
5 OTHER THAN THOSE FILED WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR
6 WASHINGTON COUNTY, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF A PARTY TO FILE A PETITION FOR
7 JUDICIAL REVIEW IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY; AND

8 (II) ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF
9 ITS HEARINGS;

10 (2) DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE PRIVATE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT OF
11 COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO:

12 (i) Enforce the provisions of the ordinance;

13 (ii) Maintain records regarding the licensing, impoundment, and
14 disposition of animals coming into the custody of the [animal control authority]
15 PRIVATE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT; and

16 (iii) Enter into contracts or agreements to provide for the disposal of
17 animals;

18 [(2)] (3) Provide for the designation of animal control shelters in
19 Washington County;

20 [(3)] (4) Specify rules and regulations that may include:

21 (i) The licensing of dogs, kennels, and pet shops;

22 (ii) The control of rabid animals; and

23 (iii) The disposition of uncontrolled, vicious, and sick animals; and

24 [(4)] (5) Provide penalties for a violation of the animal control ordinance.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2003.