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By: **Delegates Cluster, Boteler, Bartlett, Boutin, V. Clagett, DeBoy, Eckardt,  
Elliott, Frank, Frush, Glassman, Jennings, Kach, Kaiser, Krebs,  
McComas, Montgomery, Myers, Parker, Shank, and Smigiel**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ferret Protection Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain commercial entities from transporting,  
4 selling, or offering for sale a ferret that is under a certain age, has not been  
5 spayed or castrated, or has been spayed or castrated within a certain time;  
6 prohibiting certain commercial entities from spaying or castrating a ferret that  
7 is under a certain age; requiring certain commercial entities to provide certain  
8 certifications; authorizing certain commercial entities to transport, sell, or offer  
9 for sale to a ferret breeder a ferret that has not been spayed or castrated;  
10 providing for certain criminal penalties; and generally relating to the handling  
11 of ferrets.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article - Criminal Law  
14 Section 10-623  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2002 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Criminal Law**

20 10-623.

21 (A) A COMMERCIAL ENTITY THAT PRODUCES, DISTRIBUTES, OR AIDS IN THE  
22 WHOLESALE OR RETAIL DISTRIBUTION OF FERRETS:

23 (1) MAY NOT TRANSPORT, SELL, OR OFFER FOR SALE A FERRET THAT:

24 (I) IS LESS THAN 10 WEEKS OLD; OR

25 (II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,  
26 HAS NOT BEEN SPAYED OR CASTRATED;

1           (2)     MAY NOT SPAY OR CASTRATE A FERRET THAT IS LESS THAN 6 WEEKS  
2 OLD;

3           (3)     MAY NOT TRANSPORT, SELL, OR OFFER FOR SALE A FERRET THAT  
4 HAS BEEN SPAYED OR CASTRATED UNTIL MORE THAN 7 DAYS AFTER THE  
5 PROCEDURE TO SPAY OR CASTRATE THE FERRET; AND

6           (4)     SHALL PROVIDE CERTIFICATION DATING THE PROCEDURE TO SPAY  
7 OR CASTRATE THE FERRET FOR A FERRET THAT IT SPAYS OR CASTRATES.

8     (B)     A FERRET THAT HAS NOT BEEN SPAYED OR CASTRATED MAY BE  
9 TRANSPORTED, SOLD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE TO A FERRET BREEDER.

10    (C)     A COMMERCIAL ENTITY THAT PRODUCES, DISTRIBUTES, OR AIDS IN THE  
11 WHOLESALE OR RETAIL DISTRIBUTION OF FERRETS AND TRANSPORTS, SELLS, OR  
12 OFFERS FOR SALE A FERRET SHALL PROVIDE CERTIFICATION WITH EACH FERRET  
13 THAT THE COMMERCIAL ENTITY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
14 SECTION.

15    (D)     A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR  
16 AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100 FOR EACH  
17 VIOLATION.

18    SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2005.