

HOUSE BILL 834

I3

8lr2237
CF 8lr1002

By: **Delegates Hucker, Ali, Barve, Cardin, Feldman, Frush, Manno, Stein, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection – Fur Labeling Requirements for Articles of Clothing**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from displaying for sale, offering for sale, or
4 selling an article of clothing made wholly or partly from animal fur unless a
5 label or tag is attached to the article of clothing identifying certain names of
6 animals and certain countries of origin; authorizing certain identification
7 information to be added to a certain label or tag or affixed in a certain manner
8 to an article of clothing; authorizing the Attorney General to initiate a certain
9 civil action and recover certain penalties; providing that each article of clothing
10 not identified in accordance with this Act constitutes a separate violation;
11 defining certain terms; and generally relating to fur labeling requirements for
12 articles of clothing.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Commercial Law

15 Section 14–1322

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Commercial Law**

21 **14–1322.**

22 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
23 MEANINGS INDICATED.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) “ANIMAL FUR” MEANS ANIMAL SKIN WITH HAIR, FLEECE, OR
2 FUR FIBERS ATTACHED, EITHER IN A RAW OR PROCESSED STATE.

3 (3) “MERCHANT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 13-101 OF THIS
4 ARTICLE.

5 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT DISPLAY FOR SALE, OFFER FOR SALE, OR SELL
6 ANY ARTICLE OF CLOTHING MADE WHOLLY OR PARTLY OF ANIMAL FUR UNLESS
7 A LABEL OR TAG IS ATTACHED TO THE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING IDENTIFYING:

8 (1) THE NAME OF THE ANIMAL OR ANIMALS, AS SET FORTH IN
9 THE FUR PRODUCTS NAME GUIDE MAINTAINED BY THE FEDERAL TRADE
10 COMMISSION, FROM WHICH THE ANIMAL FUR WAS ACQUIRED; AND

11 (2) THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE ANIMAL FUR, IF THE
12 ANIMAL FUR IS FROM A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES.

13 (C) THE LABEL OR TAG REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
14 SECTION MAY BE:

15 (1) ADDED TO THE PERMANENT LABEL OR TAG ATTACHED TO
16 THE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING;

17 (2) ADDED TO THE TEMPORARY LABEL OR TAG USED BY A
18 MERCHANT TO IDENTIFY THE MERCHANDISE; OR

19 (3) AFFIXED BY STICKER, IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE, TO THE
20 ARTICLE OF CLOTHING.

21 (D) (1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY INITIATE A CIVIL ACTION
22 AGAINST ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION TO RECOVER FOR THE
23 STATE A PENALTY:

24 (I) NOT TO EXCEED \$500 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION; AND

25 (II) NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT
26 VIOLATION.

27 (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, EACH ARTICLE OF
28 CLOTHING THAT IS NOT LABELED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION
29 CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE VIOLATION.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 July 1, 2008.