

# HOUSE BILL 1808

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EMERGENCY BILL

2lr3523

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By: **Delegates Cardin, Bromwell, Carr, Feldman, Frush, Guzzone, Haddaway–Riccio, Hogan, Kipke, Luedtke, A. Miller, Morhaim, Reznik, Stocksdale, and F. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: May 14, 2012

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Civil Liability for Injuries Inflicted by Dogs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that no person may be held civilly liable for an injury  
4 inflicted by a dog of any breed or heritage unless the person had responsibility  
5 for exercising control over the dog and was negligent in exercising that control;  
6 making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to dogs.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

9 Section 10–922

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 **10–922.**

16 **NO PERSON MAY BE HELD CIVILLY LIABLE FOR AN INJURY INFLICTED BY**  
17 **A DOG OF ANY BREED OR HERITAGE UNLESS THE PERSON:**

18 **(1) HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXERCISING CONTROL OVER THE**  
19 **DOG; AND**

20 **(2) WAS NEGLIGENT IN EXERCISING THAT CONTROL.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
2 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
3 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
4 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
5 the date it is enacted.