

HOUSE BILL 542

E1

3lr2806
CF SB 360

By: **Delegates McConkey, Carter, Dumais, Frush, Glass, McComas, Parrott,
and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2013

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Aggravated Animal Cruelty – Baiting**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using or allowing a dog to be used for
4 baiting; prohibiting a person from possessing, owning, selling, transporting, or
5 training a dog with the intent to use the dog for baiting; prohibiting a person
6 from knowingly allowing certain premises to be used for baiting; defining a
7 certain term; and generally relating to dogfights and baiting.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Law
10 Section 10–607
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 10–607.

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BAITING” MEANS USING A DOG TO TRAIN A**
18 **FIGHTING DOG OR TO TEST THE FIGHTING OR KILLING INSTINCT OF ANOTHER**
19 **DOG.**

20 **[(a)] (B)** A person may not:

21 (1) use or allow a dog to be used in a dogfight **OR FOR BAITING;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;

2 (3) possess, own, sell, transport, or train a dog with the intent to use
3 the dog in a dogfight **OR FOR BAITING**; or

4 (4) knowingly allow premises under the person's ownership, charge, or
5 control to be used to conduct a dogfight **OR FOR BAITING**.

6 **[(b)] (C)** (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of
7 aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not
8 exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

9 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant
10 convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological
11 counseling.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2013.