

HOUSE BILL 1204

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By: **Delegates Dumais, Fraser–Hidalgo, and A. Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Dog Bites – Proof of Rabies Vaccination Required**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the owner of a dog that bites a human to provide to the
4 individual who was bitten by the dog certain proof that the dog has been
5 adequately vaccinated against rabies; establishing a certain civil penalty; and
6 generally relating to dog bites and proof of rabies vaccination.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Health – General
9 Section 18–318 and 18–319
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 18–321
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 18–318.

21 (a) Each person who owns or keeps a dog, cat, or ferret that is 4 months old
22 or older shall have the dog, cat, or ferret vaccinated adequately against rabies.

23 (b) (1) A county may not register or license a dog, cat, or ferret unless the
24 person who owns or keeps the dog, cat, or ferret submits, with the application for

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 registration or license, proof that the dog, cat, or ferret has been vaccinated adequately
2 against rabies.

3 (2) The public health veterinarian shall determine the proof of
4 vaccination that is acceptable.

5 18-319.

6 (a) A licensed veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat, or ferret against rabies:

7 (1) May select the vaccine to be used;

8 (2) Shall administer the vaccine in a manner that is consistent with
9 the recommendations of the National Association of State Public Health
10 Veterinarians;

11 (3) Shall issue to the owner of the dog, cat, or ferret a vaccination
12 certificate, on the form that the Department approves; and

13 (4) Shall keep a record of the vaccination for a period of 5 years.

14 (b) The information in the rabies vaccination record that a licensed
15 veterinarian keeps may not be used:

16 (1) To license the dog, cat, or ferret; or

17 (2) To tax the owner of the dog, cat, or ferret.

18 **18-321.**

19 (A) **THE OWNER OF A DOG THAT BITES A HUMAN SHALL PROVIDE TO**
20 **THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS BITTEN BY THE DOG PROOF THAT THE DOG HAS**
21 **BEEN ADEQUATELY VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
22 **18-318 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

23 (B) **THE PROOF REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY**
24 **BE IN THE FORM OF:**

25 (1) **A VACCINATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A LICENSED**
26 **VETERINARIAN;**

27 (2) **A VACCINATION RECORD KEPT BY A LICENSED**
28 **VETERINARIAN; OR**

1 **(3) A LICENSE OR REGISTRATION ISSUED BY A COUNTY THAT**
2 **INDICATES THE DOG HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES.**

3 **(C) A PERSON WHO FAILS TO PROVIDE PROOF OF A RABIES**
4 **VACCINATION AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY**
5 **OF \$100.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2014.