

HOUSE BILL 1503

E1

4lr3312

By: **Delegates Stein and McMillan**

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty – Leaving Dogs Outside in Extreme**
3 **Temperatures**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended by
5 use of a certain restraint during a snow emergency declared by the State Police
6 or during a certain period in which the temperature is below a certain
7 temperature for a certain amount of time; establishing penalties for a violation
8 of this Act; and generally relating to the unattended restraint of dogs.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Criminal Law
11 Section 10–623
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Criminal Law**

17 10–623.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) “Collar” means a device constructed of nylon, leather, or similar
20 material specifically designed to be used around the neck of a dog.

21 (3) “Restraint” means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other
22 device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) A person may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a
2 restraint:

3 (1) that unreasonably limits the movement of the dog;

4 (2) that uses a collar that:

5 (i) is made primarily of metal; or

6 (ii) is not at least as large as the circumference of the dog's neck
7 plus 1 inch;

8 (3) that restricts the access of the dog to suitable and sufficient clean
9 water or appropriate shelter;

10 (4) in unsafe or unsanitary conditions; [or]

11 (5) that causes injury to the dog;

12 (6) DURING A SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE STATE
13 POLICE; OR

14 (7) DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH THE LOCAL TEMPERATURE IS 32
15 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR BELOW FOR AT LEAST 1 HOUR.

16 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
17 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding
18 \$1,000 or both.

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