L2 5lr2858 CF HB 616

By: Senator Waugh

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2015

Assigned to: Rules

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning
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## St. Mary's County - Animal Regulations

- 3 FOR the purpose of repealing provisions authorizing the County Commissioners of St. 4 Mary's County to pass rules, regulations, or resolutions relating to dog licenses, the 5 prohibition of dogs running at large off the property of the owner, the seizure and 6 disposal of dogs found running at large, and the confinement of female dogs in heat; 7 repealing provisions authorizing the county commissioners to delegate, by written 8 contract, the enforcement of certain rules, regulations, or resolutions; authorizing 9 the county commissioners to enact a local law to provide a comprehensive system for the regulation, humane treatment, and keeping of domestic animals and wild 10 11 animals kept in captivity; authorizing a certain local law to include a schedule of 12 fines for designated violations; providing that a violation of a certain local law is a civil infraction; and generally relating to the regulation of certain animals in St. 13 14 Mary's County.
- 15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 16 Article Local Government
- 17 Section 13–129
- 18 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 19 (2013 Volume and 2014 Supplement)
- 20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## 22 Article - Local Government

- 23 13-129.
- 24 (a) (1) In St. Mary's County, on or before June 30 of each year, a person owning 25 or keeping a dog shall apply to the county tax collector for a license for the dog if the dog is 26 at least 6 months old.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

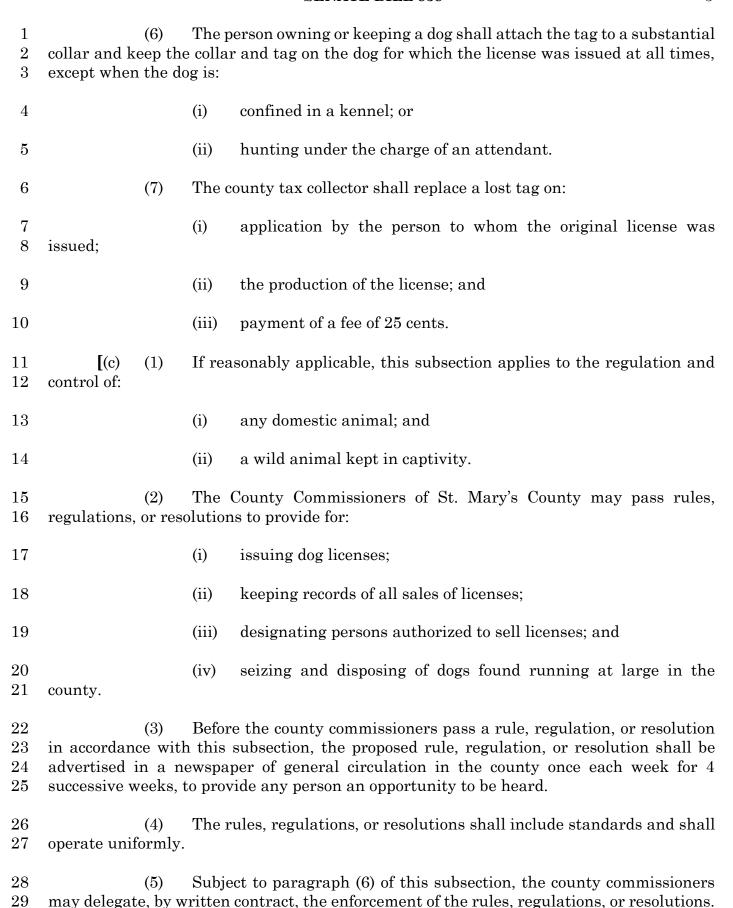


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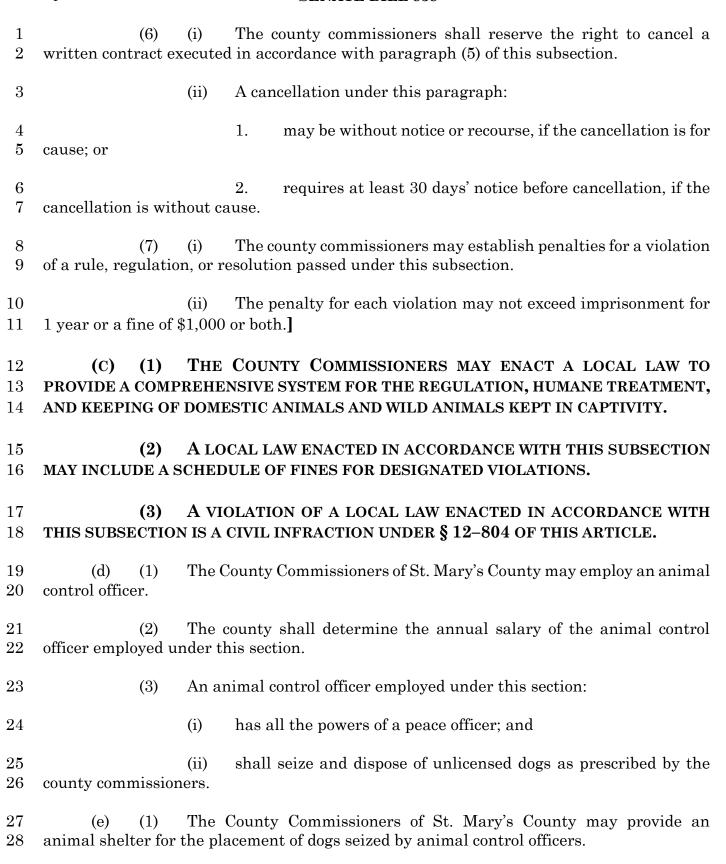
1 (2)At the time of application, the applicant shall pay the fee for a dog or 2 kennel license set by the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County. 3 (3)The county commissioners shall appoint agents to collect dog and 4 kennel license fees that are not paid by August 1 of each year. 5 A penalty of \$1.00 per license shall be assessed against dog (ii) 6 owners whose dog or kennel license fees are not paid by August 1 each year. 7 **(4)** Except as provided in § 13–108 of this subtitle, the licenses and fees 8 required under this section shall be the only licenses and fees required for owning or 9 keeping a dog. 10 The county commissioners shall prepare and supply the form for a license issued under this subsection. 11 12 A dog license shall contain the date of issuance, a serial number, and a 13 description of the dog licensed. 14 (7)A license expires on June 30 of the year after issuance. 15 (b) (1)In St. Mary's County, the county tax collector shall issue a tag with each 16 dog license to a person owning or keeping a dog when the person pays the license fee for 17 the dog. 18 (2)The County Commissioners of St. Mary's County shall prepare and supply tags to the county tax collector each year. 19 20 (3)The tags shall be: 21(i) composed of metal; 22 imprinted with a serial number corresponding to the number on (ii) 23 the license issued to the owner under subsection (a) of this section: 24imprinted with the calendar year for which the tag is issued; (iii) 25 1 inch or less in length; and (iv) 26 equipped with a substantial metal fastener. (v) 27 **(4)** The county commissioners shall change the general shape of the tags 28each year.

Tags supplied to owners of kennels shall contain the word "kennel".



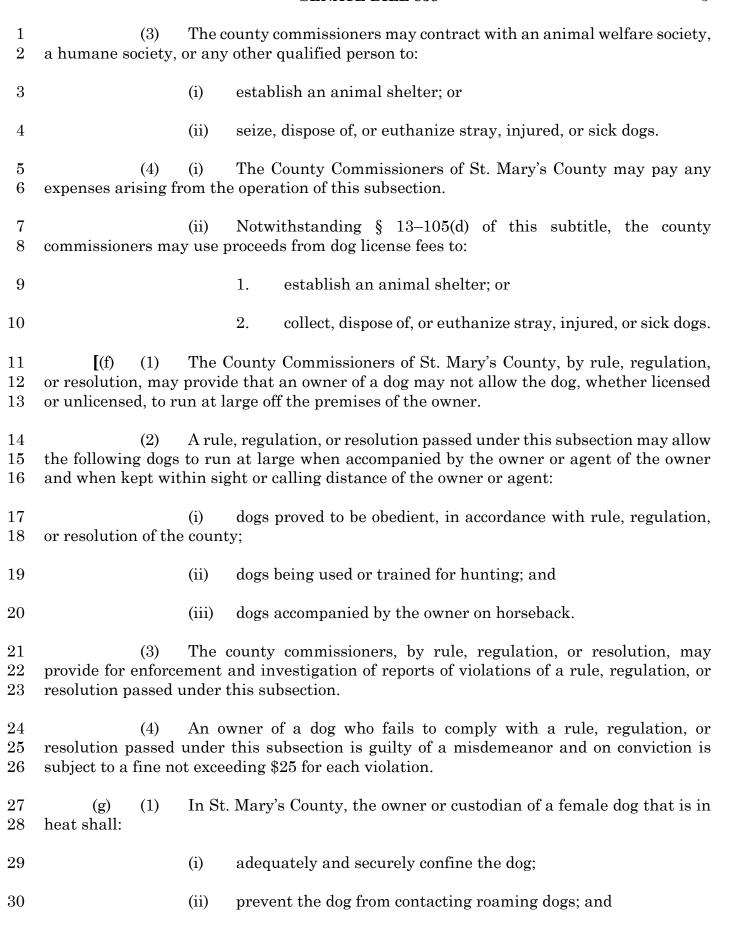
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The county commissioners may enter into agreements with adjacent

counties to establish an animal shelter to serve the counties.



## **SENATE BILL 838**

- 1 (iii) protect the dog from other dogs that are attracted to the 2 premises.
- 3 (2) A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and 4 on conviction is subject to a fine of not less than \$10 and not exceeding \$50.]
- 5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 6 October 1, 2015.