

May 12, 2015

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 616 – *St. Mary's County – Animal Regulations*.

This bill repeals provisions authorizing the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to pass rules, regulations, or resolutions relating to dog licenses, the prohibition of dogs running at large off the property of the owner, the seizure and disposal of dogs found running at large, and the confinement of female dogs in heat; and authorizes the county commissioners to enact a local law to provide a comprehensive system for the regulation, humane treatment, and keeping of specified animals.

Senate Bill 838, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 616.

Sincerely,

Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.