

Chapter 293

(House Bill 108)

AN ACT concerning

St. Mary's County – Regulation of Animals – Dogs

FOR the purpose of altering the person in the St. Mary's County government that is required to perform certain duties relating to dog licenses and dog tags; requiring the general shape of dog tags to remain unchanged from year to year; and generally relating to the regulation of dogs in St. Mary's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Local Government
 Section 13–129(a) and (b)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2013 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Local Government

13–129.

(a) (1) In St. Mary's County, on or before June 30 of each year, a person owning or keeping a dog shall apply to the [county tax collector] **ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY** for a license for the dog if the dog is at least 6 months old.

(2) At the time of application, the applicant shall pay the fee for a dog or kennel license set by the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

(3) (i) The county commissioners shall appoint agents to collect dog and kennel license fees that are not paid by August 1 of each year.

(ii) A penalty of \$1.00 per license shall be assessed against dog owners whose dog or kennel license fees are not paid by August 1 each year.

(4) Except as provided in § 13–108 of this subtitle, the licenses and fees required under this section shall be the only licenses and fees required for owning or keeping a dog.

(5) The county commissioners shall prepare and supply the form for a license issued under this subsection.

(6) A dog license shall contain the date of issuance, a serial number, and a description of the dog licensed.

(7) A license expires on June 30 of the year after issuance.

(b) (1) In St. Mary's County, the [county tax collector] **ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY** shall issue a tag with each dog license to a person owning or keeping a dog when the person pays the license fee for the dog.

(2) The County Commissioners of St. Mary's County shall prepare and supply tags to the [county tax collector] **ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY** each year.

(3) The tags shall be:

(i) composed of metal;

(ii) imprinted with a serial number corresponding to the number on the license issued to the owner under subsection (a) of this section;

(iii) imprinted with the calendar year for which the tag is issued;

(iv) 1 inch or less in length; and

(v) equipped with a substantial metal fastener.

(4) The [county commissioners shall change the] general shape of the tags [each year] **SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM YEAR TO YEAR.**

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

(6) The person owning or keeping a dog shall attach the tag to a substantial collar and keep the collar and tag on the dog for which the license was issued at all times, except when the dog is:

(i) confined in a kennel; or

(ii) hunting under the charge of an attendant.

(7) The [county tax collector] **ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY** shall replace a lost tag on:

- issued;
- (i) application by the person to whom the original license was issued;
 - (ii) the production of the license; and
 - (iii) payment of a fee of 25 cents.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2017.