

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 501 (Delegate K. Young, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Crimes - Unattended Restraint of Dogs in Extreme Temperatures

This bill prohibits a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint for longer than 30 minutes when the temperature is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days and/or a \$1,000 maximum fine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to expanded application of an existing penalty provision.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in local expenditures due to expanded application of an existing penalty provision. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint (1) that unreasonably limits the movement of the dog; (2) that uses a collar that is made primarily of metal or is not at least as large as the circumference of the dog's neck plus one inch; (3) that restricts the access of the dog to suitable and sufficient clean water or appropriate shelter; (4) in unsafe or unsanitary conditions; or (5) that causes injury to the dog. "Restraint" and "collar" are statutorily defined terms. A violation of any of these prohibitions is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days and/or a \$1,000 maximum fine.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery and Prince George's counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of Bowie; Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the Public Defender; Maryland State's Attorneys' Association; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2019
mag/kdm

Analysis by: Amy A. Devadas

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510