



Secular Maryland

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SB 157 - FAV

Domestic Animals - Penalties for Abandonment and Microchip Requirements for Dogs

Dear Chair William C. Smith Jr, Vice-Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the
Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The \$100 dollar maximum penalty for anyone who irresponsibly abandons their domesticated animal is too small to be effective in many contexts. This bill increases the maximum penalty to \$1,000 and ninety days imprisonment. Additionally, this bill introduces a requirement that a tracking chip be installed by future dog owners. Secular Maryland recognizes that other social animals are like us and accordingly supports improving our animal welfare laws in general and this bill in particular.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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