

SENATE BILL 17

E2, E1

(PRE-FILED)

4r1384
CF HB 667

By: **Senator West**

Requested: November 1, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 3, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Crimes Relating to Animals – Conviction and Sentencing**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that each domestic or farm animal harmed in a violation
4 of a prohibition against animal cruelty is a separate offense and shall be deemed an
5 individual victim for purposes of the sentencing guidelines stacking rule;
6 establishing that a conviction for a crime relating to animals may not merge with a
7 conviction for any other crime based on the act establishing the violation and that a
8 sentence imposed may be separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a
9 sentence based on the act establishing a violation; and generally relating to crimes
10 relating to animals.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Criminal Law

13 Section 10–627

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Criminal Law**

19 **10–627.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A DOMESTIC OR FARM ANIMAL.**

2 **(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, EACH ANIMAL HARMED IN A**
3 **VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE AND SHALL BE DEEMED AN**
4 **INDIVIDUAL VICTIM FOR PURPOSES OF THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES STACKING**
5 **RULE.**

6 ~~**(B)**~~ **(C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A CONVICTION UNDER THIS**
7 **SUBTITLE MAY NOT MERGE WITH A CONVICTION FOR ANY OTHER CRIME BASED ON**
8 **THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

9 ~~**(C)**~~ **(D) A SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE SEPARATE**
10 **FROM AND CONSECUTIVE TO OR CONCURRENT WITH A SENTENCE FOR ANY CRIME**
11 **BASED ON THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.