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By: Delegates Conway, W. Baker, Schisler, Bozman, D. Hughes, Eckardt, Walkup,and McClenahan
Rules suspended
Introduced and read first time: March 14, 1996
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2   **Working Dogs - Quarantine - Working Exemption**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a dog assigned to certain law enforcement agencies
4   shall be issued a working exemption from certain quarantine requirements if the
5   dog bites an individual while the dog is acting in the line of duty;requiring the law
6   enforcement agency to provide certification that the dog has been inoculated for
7   rabies and, after the working quarantine, that the dog exhibited no signs of illness;
8   and generally relating to exemptions from certain quarantine requirements.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10   Article - Health - General
11   Section 18-320
12   Annotated Code of Maryland
13   (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

16   **Article - Health - General**

17 18-320.

18   (a) Except as provided in [subsection] SUBSECTIONS (d) AND (E) of this section,
19 an animal that bites a human or otherwise exposes a human to rabies shall be quarantined
20 in a place, which may include the residence of the owner, in the mannerdesignated by the
21 local health officer or the public health veterinarian for a suitable period as determined
22 by the health officer or the public health veterinarian.

23   (b) (1) At any time during the quarantine period, the public health veterinarian
24 or local health officer may order the owner of a biting animal to have the animal
25 monitored for rabies by a licensed veterinarian.

26   (2) The owner of the animal shall pay for the cost of any examination or
27 other associated cost.

1   (c) An animal under quarantine may not be moved from the place of quarantine
2 without the written permission of the local health officer or public health veterinarian.

3   (d) The public health veterinarian or local health officer may orderthe immediate
4 and humane destruction of a biting animal for rabies testing if:

5   (1) It is necessary to preserve human health;

6   (2) A licensed veterinarian determines that a quarantined animal is
7 inhumanely suffering; or

8   (3) The animal is considered wild and is not claimed by an owner within 24
9 hours.

10   (E) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS
11 INDICATED.

12   (I) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL AGENCY" MEANS:

13   1. A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
14 OR AGENCY;

15   2. A SHERIFF'S OFFICE; OR

16   3. AN INSTITUTION FOR THE DETENTION OR CONFINEMENT
17 OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME, AN INSTITUTION FOR THE
18 DETENTION OR CONFINEMENT OF JUVENILES CHARGED WITH OR ADJUDICATED AS
19 BEING DELINQUENT, OR A HOSPITAL IN WHICH A PERSON IS CONFINED PURSUANT
20 TO AN ORDER OF A COURT EXERCISING CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

21   (II) "WORKING DOG" MEANS A DOG THAT IS ASSIGNED TO A LAW
22 ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING
23 SECURITY, GUARD, PROTECTION, OR DETECTION DUTIES.

24   (2) IF A WORKING DOG BITES AN INDIVIDUAL WHILE THE DOG IS
25 ACTING IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN OR LOCAL
26 HEALTH OFFICER SHALL ISSUE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL
27 AGENCY A WORKING EXEMPTION FOR THE WORKING DOG WITH THE FOLLOWING
28 RESTRICTIONS:

29   (I) THE WORKING DOG'S HANDLER SHALL CERTIFY IN WRITING
30 THAT THE DOG HAS BEEN INOCULATED FOR RABIES;

31   (II) THE WORKING DOG SHALL ONLY BE USED IN THE LINE OF
32 DUTY; AND

33   (III) AT THE END OF THE 10 DAY WORKING QUARANTINE, THE LAW
34 ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN
35 CERTIFICATION TO THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER OR THE PUBLIC HEALTH
36 VETERINARIAN THAT THE WORKING DOG EXHIBITED NO SIGNS OF ILLNESS.

37   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
38 October 1, 1996.