
By: Washington County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County - Licensing of Dogs and Kennels**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting Washington County from certain provisions of law
4 relating to licensing of dogs and kennels; repealing certain provisions of law relating
5 to dog licenses that apply to Washington County; and generally relating to the
6 licensing of dogs and kennels in Washington County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions
9 Section 11-501(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing
13 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions
14 Section 11-501(i)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1996 Replacement Volume)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article 25 - County Commissioners
19 Section 236A
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

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1 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions

2 11-501.

3 (a) Except in Carroll County, Montgomery County [and], Howard County, AND
 4 WASHINGTON COUNTY, on or before the first day of July of each year, the owner of any
 5 dog, six months old or over, shall apply either orally or in writing, to the county treasurer
 6 or to the tax collecting officer in said county for a license for each such dog owned or kept
 7 by him, and such application shall be accompanied by a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for each
 8 male dog or each spayed female dog, and a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for each unspayed
 9 female dog, and provided that kennel license shall be issued for ten dollars (\$10.00) to
 10 persons owning or keeping not in excess of twenty-five dogs and that a kennel license fee
 11 of twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be issued to persons keeping more than twenty-five dogs.
 12 The said license or fee shall be the only license or tax required for the ownership or
 13 keeping of said dog or dogs. Such license shall be issued on a form prepared and supplied
 14 by the county commissioners. Such license shall be dated and numbered, and shall
 15 contain a description of the dog licensed. Except in Carroll County, Montgomery County
 16 [and], Howard County, AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, all licenses shall be void upon the
 17 first day of July of the following year. The county commissioners shall also furnish, and
 18 the county treasurer, or tax collecting officer issuing the license, shall issue, with each
 19 license, a metal tag. Such tag shall be affixed to a substantial collar. The collar shall be
 20 furnished by the owner, and with the tag attached shall at all times be kept on the dog for
 21 which the license is issued, except when confined in the kennel or when hunting in charge
 22 of an attendant.

23 [(i) (1) In Washington County the fees for dogs shall be determined by the
 24 County Commissioners of the County.

25 (2) (i) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the County
 26 Commissioners of Washington County may provide by ordinance that a dog license shall
 27 expire when a rabies vaccination certification issued under § 18-319(a)(3) of the Health
 28 - General Article expires.

29 (ii) If the County Commissioners alter the date on which dog licenses
 30 expire, the County Commissioners may provide that the fee for a dog license or the term
 31 of a license shall be prorated to reflect altered license terms.]

32 Article 25 - County Commissioners

33 236A.

34 The County Commissioners for Washington County may adopt an animal control
 35 ordinance to:

36 (1) Create an animal control authority for Washington County to:

37 (i) Enforce the provisions of the ordinance;

38 (ii) Maintain records regarding the licensing, impoundment, and
 39 disposition of animals coming into the custody of the animal control authority; and

40 (iii) Enter into contracts or agreements to provide for the disposal of
 41 animals;

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1 (2) Provide for the designation of animal control shelters in Washington
2 County;

3 (3) Specify rules and regulations that may include:

4 (i) The licensing of dogs, kennels, and pet shops;

5 (ii) The control of rabid animals; and

6 (iii) The disposition of uncontrolled, vicious, and sick animals; and

7 (4) Provide penalties for a violation of the animal control ordinance.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 1997.