
By: Senator Munson

Requested: August 6, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Police Dogs and Horses - Killing, Taunting, or Interfering With**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from intentionally killing a police dog or police
4 horse; prohibiting a person from intentionally taunting or otherwise interfering with
5 a police dog or police horse while the police dog or police horse is on duty;
6 establishing certain penalties; and generally relating to the killing of, taunting of, or
7 interfering with a police dog or police horse.

8 BY adding to

9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
10 Section 59B
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 59B.

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (2) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" MEANS A GOVERNMENTAL POLICE
20 FORCE, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, SECURITY FORCE, OR OTHER AGENCY OF THE
21 UNITED STATES, A STATE, A COUNTY, OR A MUNICIPALITY OR OTHER POLITICAL
22 SUBDIVISION THAT HAS BY LAW THE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE THE LAWS OF THE
23 UNITED STATES, A STATE, A COUNTY, OR A MUNICIPALITY OR OTHER POLITICAL
24 SUBDIVISION.

25 (3) "POLICE DOG" MEANS A DOG THAT IS REGISTERED WITH AND USED
26 BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS OFFICIAL DUTIES.

27 (4) "POLICE HORSE" MEANS A HORSE THAT IS REGISTERED WITH AND
28 USED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS OFFICIAL
29 DUTIES.

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1 (B) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY TAUNT OR OTHERWISE
2 INTERFERE WITH A POLICE DOG OR POLICE HORSE WHILE THE POLICE DOG OR
3 POLICE HORSE IS ON DUTY.

4 (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A
5 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500
6 OR A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH.

7 (C) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY KILL A POLICE DOG OR
8 POLICE HORSE.

9 (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A
10 FELONY AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$7,000 OR A
11 TERM OF IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR BOTH.

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