

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Owings (By Request)**
Requested: July 5, 2000
Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2001
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Disease Prevention - Rabies - Domestic Skunks**

3 FOR the purpose of excluding domestic skunks from the animals that the Secretary of
4 Health and Mental Hygiene may find to be dangerous to human health and
5 safety; requiring certain skunks to be vaccinated against rabies; requiring a
6 person that owns or keeps a domestic skunk to submit proof of vaccination with
7 an application for county registration or licensing; requiring a licensed
8 veterinarian who vaccinates a domestic skunk to provide the owner with a
9 certain vaccination certificate; requiring the quarantine of domestic skunks that
10 have been vaccinated against rabies that bite or expose a human to rabies under
11 certain circumstances; and generally relating to disease prevention of domestic
12 skunks.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 18-219 and 18-318 through 18-320
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

20 **Article - Health - General**

21 18-219.

22 (a) The Secretary may prohibit the importation, selling, trading, purchasing,
23 bartering, breeding, raising, keeping, or possession of any animals found to be
24 dangerous to human health and safety.

25 (b) This section does not apply to:

26 (1) Domestic cats;

27 (2) Domestic dogs;

- 1 (3) Domestic ferrets;
- 2 (4) DOMESTIC SKUNKS;
- 3 [(4)] (5) Animals used for agricultural purposes;
- 4 [(5)] (6) Animals used for scientific purposes;
- 5 [(6)] (7) Animals used for educational purposes;
- 6 [(7)] (8) Animals used for public exhibitions; or
- 7 [(8)] (9) Any animal that the Secretary determines is not a threat to
8 human health and safety.

9 18-318.

10 (a) Each person who owns or keeps a dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK that is 4
11 months old or older shall have the dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK vaccinated
12 adequately against rabies.

13 (b) (1) A county may not register or license a dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK
14 unless the person who owns or keeps the dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK submits,
15 with the application for registration or license, proof that the dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR
16 SKUNK has been vaccinated adequately against rabies.

17 (2) The public health veterinarian shall determine the proof of
18 vaccination that is acceptable.

19 18-319.

20 (a) A licensed veterinarian who vaccinates a dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK
21 against rabies:

22 (1) May select the vaccine to be used;

23 (2) Shall administer the vaccine in a manner that is consistent with the
24 recommendations of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians;

25 (3) Shall issue to the owner of the dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK a
26 vaccination certificate, on the form that the Department approves; and

27 (4) Shall keep a record of the vaccination for a period of 5 years.

28 (b) The information in the rabies vaccination record that a licensed
29 veterinarian keeps may not be used:

30 (1) To license the dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK; or

31 (2) To tax the owner of the dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK.

1 18-320.

2 (a) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, an apparently healthy
3 dog, cat, [or] ferret, OR SKUNK that has been adequately vaccinated against rabies in
4 accordance with § 18-318 of this subtitle or any other animal that bites a human or
5 otherwise exposes a human to rabies shall be quarantined as provided in subsection
6 (b) of this section.

7 (b) An animal under quarantine shall be quarantined in a place, which may
8 include the residence of the owner, in the manner designated by the local health
9 officer or the public health veterinarian for a suitable period as determined by the
10 health officer or the public health veterinarian.

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

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

16 (d) An animal under quarantine may not be moved from the place of
17 quarantine without the written permission of the local health officer or public health
18 veterinarian.

19 (e) The public health veterinarian or local health officer or the designee of the
20 public health veterinarian or local health officer may order the immediate and
21 humane destruction of a biting animal for rabies testing if:

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

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

25 (3) The animal is considered wild and is not claimed by an owner within
26 24 hours.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2001.