
By: **Delegates Dembrow and R. Baker**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Animal Cruelty - Inspections of Circuses**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing a county or local animal control board to inspect certain
4 circuses to determine whether animal cruelty or other mistreatment of animals
5 has occurred under certain circumstances; requiring certain circuses to permit
6 certain inspections under certain circumstances; requiring a county or local
7 animal control board to report certain findings or refusal to permit inspections
8 to the United States Department of Agriculture under certain circumstances;
9 defining a certain term; and generally relating to animal cruelty.

10 BY adding to
11 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
12 Section 71
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

18 71.

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "CIRCUS" MEANS A TRAVELING EXHIBITION WHICH
20 INCLUDES ANIMALS AND IS REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED BY THE UNITED STATES
21 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

22 (B) A COUNTY OR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD MAY INSPECT IN A
23 REASONABLE MANNER AND AT A REASONABLE TIME A CIRCUS TO DETERMINE
24 WHETHER ANY ANIMALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CIRCUS ARE BEING
25 SUBJECTED TO CRUELTY UNDER § 59 OF THIS SUBHEADING OR ARE OTHERWISE
26 BEING MISTREATED.

27 (C) A CIRCUS SHALL ALLOW A COUNTY OR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD
28 TO INSPECT IN A REASONABLE MANNER AND AT A REASONABLE TIME ANY ANIMALS

1 UNDER ITS CONTROL TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ANIMALS UNDER THE CONTROL
2 OF THE CIRCUS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO CRUELTY UNDER § 59 OF THIS
3 SUBHEADING OR ARE OTHERWISE BEING MISTREATED.

4 (D) A COUNTY OR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

6 (1) IF IT FINDS THAT ANY ANIMALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A CIRCUS
7 HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CRUELTY UNDER § 59 OF THIS SUBHEADING OR HAVE
8 OTHERWISE BEEN MISTREATED; OR

9 (2) A REFUSAL ON THE PART OF A CIRCUS TO ALLOW AN INSPECTION
10 UNDER THIS SECTION.

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