

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 612

(Delegates Owings and O'Donnell)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Criminal Law - Dogs and Cats - Killing or Poisoning**

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This bill increases the fine from \$500 to \$1,000 for killing, or allowing a dog or cat to be killed by a decompression chamber, carbon monoxide gas, or curariform drugs.

The bill provides that a person may not willfully and maliciously give poison or ground glass to a cat, or expose poison or ground glass with the intent that the cat ingest it. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. The bill also increases the fine for willfully and maliciously giving poison or ground glass to a dog from \$100 to \$1,000 for each violation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A person may not kill or allow a dog or cat to be killed by a decompression chamber, carbon monoxide gas, or curariform drugs. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.

A person may not willfully and maliciously give poison or ground glass to a dog, or expose poison or ground glass, with the intent that the dog ingest it. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine not to exceed \$100 for each violation.

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2003  
mld/cer Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2003

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