

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 975
Judiciary

(Delegates Redmer and Boteler)

Ferret Protection Act

This bill makes it a misdemeanor to ship, receive, sell, buy, spay, or neuter a ferret that is under the age of 12 weeks. A person who violates these provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum fine of \$100.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The criminal penalty provisions of this bill would not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person is prohibited from hunting with a ferret. A person who owns or keeps a ferret that is at least four months old must have the ferret adequately vaccinated against rabies.

Ferrets that have been vaccinated against rabies and bite a human or expose a human to rabies must be quarantined in a manner designated by the local health officer or the public health veterinarian.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This is a reintroduction of HB 1359 from the 2002 session. HB 1359 was referred to the Environmental Matters Committee, but was not reported out.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2003
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