

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 712

(Calvert County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Calvert County - Giving Away Live Animals as a Prize or Inducement -
Prohibition

This bill provides that in Calvert County a person may not give away a live animal as: (1) a prize for, or inducement to enter, a contest, game, or other competition; (2) an inducement to enter a place of amusement; or (3) an incentive to make a business agreement if the offer is to attract trade. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

The prohibition does not apply to a retail establishment that gives away a live animal, or a person who, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, gives away a goldfish.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues from increased monetary penalties.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: State law prohibits giving away live animals under the circumstances set forth in this bill without the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. The prohibition does not apply to giving away an animal:

- as an agricultural project;
- for conservation purposes; or

- that is intended for slaughter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2004
mh/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 24, 2004

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