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By: **Senator Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2005

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Talbot County - Dog and Kennel Licenses and Dog Tags**

3 FOR the purpose of excluding Talbot County from certain provisions of law relating to  
4 dog licenses and kennel licenses; requiring that the fees, terms, and form of dog  
5 and kennel licenses in Talbot County be determined by the County Council of  
6 Talbot County; providing that the requirement for a dog tag in Talbot County  
7 may be satisfied by either a metal tag or a surgically implanted microchip;  
8 excluding Talbot County from a provision of law specifying requirements for dog  
9 tags; and generally relating to requirements for dog and kennel licenses and dog  
10 tags in Talbot County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions  
13 Section 11-501 and 11-503  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

18 **Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions**

19 11-501.

20 (a) Except in Carroll County, Montgomery County, Howard County, TALBOT  
21 COUNTY, and Washington County, on or before the first day of July of each year, the  
22 owner of any dog, six months old or over, shall apply either orally or in writing, to the  
23 county treasurer or to the tax collecting officer in said county for a license for each

1 such dog owned or kept by him, and such application shall be accompanied by a fee of  
2 one dollar (\$1.00) for each male dog or each spayed female dog, and a fee of two  
3 dollars (\$2.00) for each unspayed female dog, and provided that kennel license shall  
4 be issued for ten dollars (\$10.00) to persons owning or keeping not in excess of  
5 twenty-five dogs and that a kennel license fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be  
6 issued to persons keeping more than twenty-five dogs. The said license or fee shall be  
7 the only license or tax required for the ownership or keeping of said dog or dogs. Such  
8 license shall be issued on a form prepared and supplied by the county commissioners.  
9 Such license shall be dated and numbered, and shall contain a description of the dog  
10 licensed. Except in Carroll County, Montgomery County, Howard County, TALBOT  
11 COUNTY, and Washington County, all licenses shall be void upon the first day of July  
12 of the following year. The county commissioners shall also furnish, and the county  
13 treasurer, or tax collecting officer issuing the license, shall issue, with each license, a  
14 metal tag. Such tag shall be affixed to a substantial collar. The collar shall be  
15 furnished by the owner, and with the tag attached shall at all times be kept on the dog  
16 for which the license is issued, except when confined in the kennel or when hunting in  
17 charge of an attendant.

18 (b) In Calvert County the fees for dog licenses shall be determined by the  
19 County Commissioners. However, before establishing or altering any license fee, the  
20 Calvert County Commissioners shall advertise the proposed fee for 2 consecutive  
21 weeks in at least 2 newspapers of general circulation in Calvert County. All dog  
22 licenses will expire on June 30. Any license valid on July 1, 1973, shall remain valid  
23 through June 30, 1974.

24 (c) In Harford County all applications for licenses under the provisions of this  
25 section shall be made on or before the thirty-first day of December of each year and  
26 all licenses issued shall be void upon the thirty-first day of December of the following  
27 year. Any license issued under the provisions of this section as of July 1, 1950, shall be  
28 valid until December 31, 1951. The license fee for each unspayed female dog shall be  
29 three dollars (\$3.00).

30 (d) In Montgomery County:

31 (1) The fees for dogs shall be determined by the County Executive of the  
32 county; and

33 (2) A dog license shall expire when a rabies vaccination certification  
34 issued under § 18-319(a)(3) of the Health - General Article expires.

35 (e) In St. Mary's County the license fees for dogs, including the fee for any  
36 kennel license, shall be determined by the County Commissioners of the county and  
37 shall be payable on or before the thirtieth day of June of each year, and all such  
38 licenses issued shall be void upon the thirtieth day of June the following year. The  
39 County Commissioners of St. Mary's County are authorized and directed to appoint  
40 the necessary agents to collect said license fees from owners of dogs who have not paid  
41 the required license fees by the first day of August in each year, and there shall be  
42 added to the fee of such delinquent owner a penalty of one dollar (\$1.00) per license.

1 Every dog warden appointed in St. Mary's County shall have all the powers of a  
2 constable or other peace officer.

3 (f) In Talbot County [the fee for a male dog or a spayed female shall be \$1.50  
4 and the fee for an unspayed female dog shall be \$3.00]:

5 (1) THE FEES, THE TERM, AND THE FORM OF DOG AND KENNEL  
6 LICENSES SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY;

7 (2) A DOG LICENSE SHALL EXPIRE AS SPECIFIED BY COUNTY LAW; AND

8 (3) A DOG TAG MAY BE EITHER A METAL TAG OR A SURGICALLY  
9 IMPLANTED MICROCHIP.

10 (g) In Charles County the fee for dogs shall be determined by the County  
11 Commissioners of the county.

12 (h) In Howard County:

13 (1) The fee for dog and kennel licenses is determined by the County  
14 Executive with the approval of the County Council; and

15 (2) A dog license shall expire as specified by county law.

16 (i) Repealed.

17 (j) In Worcester, Kent, and Caroline counties the fee for dog and kennel  
18 licenses shall be determined by the county commissioners.

19 (k) In Frederick County, the license fees for dogs, including the fee for any  
20 kennel license, shall be determined by the County Commissioners of the county.

21 (l) In Wicomico County:

22 (1) The fees for dog and kennel licenses shall be determined by the  
23 County Council of Wicomico County; and

24 (2) A dog license shall expire as specified by county law.

25 (m) In Anne Arundel County, the fees for dog and kennel licenses shall be  
26 determined by the County Council of Anne Arundel County. A dog license shall expire  
27 when a rabies vaccination certificate issued under § 18-319(a)(3) of the Health -  
28 General Article expires.

29 (n) In Garrett County, the license fee for dogs, including the fee for any kennel  
30 license, shall be determined by the County Commissioners of the county.

31 (o) (1) This subsection applies only to Carroll County.

1 (2) The Carroll County Commissioners shall set the fees, the term, and  
2 the form for dog licenses and kennel licenses pursuant to the authority under §  
3 11-511 of this subtitle.

4 11-503.

5 (a) Except in Carroll County, the county commissioners of the counties shall  
6 prepare, and furnish annually to the county treasurer, and to the tax collecting officer,  
7 metal tags to be given the owners of dogs when the owners shall pay the license fee for  
8 dogs. The tags shall be of metal, and shall have a serial number corresponding with  
9 the number on the license issued to the owner, as provided in § 11-501 of this subtitle.  
10 The tags shall also have impressed thereon the calendar year for which the tag is  
11 issued, and shall not be more than 1 inch in length, and shall be equipped with a  
12 substantial metal fastening device. The general shape of the tag shall be changed  
13 from year to year, and the tags furnished owners of kennels shall have the word  
14 "kennel" thereon. If any tag is lost it shall be replaced by the county treasurer, or tax  
15 collecting office, upon application by the person to whom the original license was  
16 issued, upon the production of the license and payment of a fee of 25 cents.

17 (b) In Calvert County the tag may not be more than two inches in length and  
18 shall cost 50 cents for a replacement if the original is lost.

19 (c) In Anne Arundel County, the expiration date of the dog license, rather than  
20 a calendar year, shall be impressed on the tag, and the shape of the tag may remain  
21 unchanged from year to year.

22 (d) This section does not apply in TALBOT COUNTY OR Washington County.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 ~~October~~ June 1, 2005.