

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1014

(Calvert County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Calvert County - Power to Adopt an Animal Control Ordinance

This bill authorizes the Calvert County Commissioners to provide, by ordinance, for the regulation, humane treatment, and keeping of domestic animals within the county, including the authority to assess penalties of up to a \$1,000 fine, 30 days in the county jail, or both.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill would not materially affect Calvert County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Calvert County's current authority to enact animal control ordinances primarily deals with the regulation and protection of dogs and cats, and does not apply to other domestic animals.

Background: The Queen Anne's County Commissioners have the authority to adopt, amend, and enforce a comprehensive animal control ordinance. The Washington County Commissioners have the authority to adopt an animal control ordinance to: (1) create a quasi-judicial deliberative animal control authority for Washington County; (2) designate an appropriate agency or department to enforce the provisions of the ordinance; (3) to provide for the designation of animal control shelters in the county; (4) specify rules and

regulations for the licensing, control, and disposition of certain animals; and (5) provide for penalties for a violation of the animal control ordinance.

Local Fiscal Effect: Merely authorizing Calvert County to enact a more comprehensive animal control ordinance, would not materially impact county finances. However, to the extent that Calvert County assesses penalties with regard to the enforcement of this ordinance, revenues and expenditures could increase minimally.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2005
mam/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2005

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