

ENROLLED BILL
-- Judiciary/Judicial Proceedings --

Introduced by **Delegates Levy, Jameson, Sossi, Menes, Quinter, Cane, Barve, Bromwell, Cardin, McMillan, McComas, Mandel, Cryor, Bronrott, Heller, Petzold, Hogan, and King**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Inflicting Unnecessary Suffering or Pain on Animals - Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from inflicting unnecessary suffering or pain
4 on an animal; repealing the requirement that a person have charge or custody of
5 an animal, as owner or otherwise, to be prosecuted for inflicting unnecessary
6 suffering or pain on an animal; *providing for the construction of this Act*; and
7 generally relating to the infliction of unnecessary suffering or pain on animals.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Criminal Law
10 Section 10-604
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Criminal Law**

4 10-604.

5 (a) A person may not:

6 (1) overdrive or overload an animal;

7 (2) deprive an animal of necessary sustenance;

8 (3) INFLICT UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OR PAIN ON AN ANIMAL;

9 [(3)] (4) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under [item (1) or
10 item (2)] ITEM (1), (2), OR (3) of this subsection; or

11 [(4)] (5) if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or
12 otherwise[:

13 (i) inflict unnecessary suffering or pain on the animal; or

14 (ii)], unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with nutritious food
15 in sufficient quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air, space, shelter, or
16 protection from the weather.

17 (b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
18 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding
19 \$1,000 or both.

20 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant
21 convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological
22 counseling.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
24 construed to apply to lawful hunting or lawful trapping.

25 SECTION ~~2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
26 effect October 1, 2006.