

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Haddaway**
Requested: November 14, 2005
Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2006
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

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 (2005 Replacement Volume)

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, Cecil County, Montgomery County, Howard
21 County, TALBOT COUNTY, and Washington County, on or before the first day of July of
22 each year, the owner of any dog, six months old or over, shall apply either orally or in
23 writing, to the county treasurer or to the tax collecting officer in said county for a
24 license for each such dog owned or kept by him, and such application shall be
25 accompanied by a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for each male dog or each spayed female
26 dog, and a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for each unspayed female dog, and provided that
27 kennel license shall be issued for ten dollars (\$10.00) to persons owning or keeping
28 not in excess of twenty-five dogs and that a kennel license fee of twenty dollars
29 (\$20.00) shall be issued to persons keeping more than twenty-five dogs. The said

1 license or fee shall be the only license or tax required for the ownership or keeping of
2 said dog or dogs. Such license shall be issued on a form prepared and supplied by the
3 county commissioners. Such license shall be dated and numbered, and shall contain a
4 description of the dog licensed. Except in Carroll County, Cecil County, Montgomery
5 County, Howard County, TALBOT COUNTY, and Washington County, all licenses shall
6 be void upon the first day of July of the following year. The county commissioners
7 shall also furnish, and the county treasurer, or tax collecting officer issuing the
8 license, shall issue, with each license, a metal tag. Such tag shall be affixed to a
9 substantial collar. The collar shall be furnished by the owner, and with the tag
10 attached shall at all times be kept on the dog for which the license is issued, except
11 when confined in the kennel or when hunting in charge of an attendant.

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

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

24 (d) In Montgomery County:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (h) In Howard County:

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

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

10 (i) Repealed.

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

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

15 (l) In Wicomico County:

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) The Carroll County Commissioners shall set the fees, the term, and
27 the form for dog licenses and kennel licenses pursuant to the authority under §
28 11-511 of this subtitle.

29 (p) In Cecil County, the fees, the terms, and the forms for dog and kennel
30 licenses shall be determined by the County Commissioners of Cecil County.

31 11-503.

32 (a) Except in Carroll County, the county commissioners of the counties shall
33 prepare, and furnish annually to the county treasurer, and to the tax collecting officer,

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

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

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

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

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 June 1, 2006.