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By: **Delegates McComas, Bartlett, Boteler, V. Clagett, Cluster, Cryor,  
Dumais, Elliott, Frank, Hogan, Kach, Kaiser, Kohl, Lee, Mandel, Mayer,  
McIntosh, McKee, Shank, Simmons, and Smigiel**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ferret Protection Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a certain person from transporting, selling, or offering  
4 for sale a certain ferret under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain  
5 person from spaying or neutering a certain ferret; requiring a certain person to  
6 provide a certain certification; establishing certain criminal penalties; and  
7 generally relating to ferrets.

8 BY adding to

9 Article - Criminal Law

10 Section 10-623

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Criminal Law**

16 10-623.

17 (A) A PERSON IN THE BUSINESS OF BREEDING, DISTRIBUTING, OR AIDING IN  
18 THE WHOLESALE OR RETAIL DISTRIBUTION OF FERRETS:

19 (1) MAY NOT TRANSPORT, SELL, OR OFFER FOR SALE A FERRET THAT:

20 (I) IS LESS THAN 10 WEEKS OLD; OR

21 (II) HAS NOT BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED, UNLESS THE FERRET IS  
22 TRANSPORTED, SOLD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE TO A FERRET BREEDER;

23 (2) MAY NOT SPAY OR NEUTER A FERRET THAT IS LESS THAN 8 WEEKS  
24 OLD;

1           (3)       MAY NOT TRANSPORT, SELL, OR OFFER FOR SALE A FERRET THAT  
2 HAS BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED UNTIL MORE THAN 7 DAYS AFTER THE  
3 PROCEDURE TO SPAY OR NEUTER THE FERRET; AND

4           (4)       SHALL PROVIDE CERTIFICATION DATING ANY PROCEDURE TO SPAY  
5 OR NEUTER A FERRET.

6       (B)       A PERSON IN THE BUSINESS OF BREEDING, DISTRIBUTING, OR AIDING IN  
7 THE WHOLESALE OR RETAIL DISTRIBUTION OF FERRETS WHO TRANSPORTS, SELLS,  
8 OR OFFERS FOR SALE A FERRET SHALL PROVIDE CERTIFICATION WITH EACH  
9 FERRET THAT THE PERSON IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
10 SECTION.

11       (C)       A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR  
12 AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100 FOR EACH  
13 VIOLATION.

14       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2006.