
By: **Senator Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Leaving Dogs Outside and Unattended by Use of Restraint -**
3 **Penalties**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended
5 by use of a certain restraint during certain time periods and under certain
6 circumstances; establishing penalties for a violation of this Act; defining a
7 certain term; and generally relating to the unattended restraint of dogs.

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) IN THIS SECTION, "RESTRAINT" MEANS A CHAIN, ROPE, TETHER, LEASH,
18 CABLE, OR OTHER DEVICE THAT ATTACHES A DOG TO A STATIONARY OBJECT OR
19 PULLEY RUN.

20 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT LEAVE A DOG OUTSIDE AND UNATTENDED BY USE OF
21 A RESTRAINT:

22 (1) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 12 MIDNIGHT AND 5 A.M. UNLESS THE
23 PERSON HAS AN EXPRESS WAIVER FROM THE UNIT OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL
24 CORPORATION THAT LICENSED THE DOG;

25 (2) DURING A WEATHER EMERGENCY;

26 (3) THAT WEIGHS MORE THAN ONE-EIGHTH OF THE DOG'S BODY
27 WEIGHT;

1 (4) THAT IS LESS THAN FIVE TIMES THE LENGTH OF THE DOG, AS
2 MEASURED FROM THE TIP OF THE DOG'S NOSE TO THE BASE OF THE DOG'S TAIL;

3 (5) THAT UNREASONABLY LIMITS THE DOG'S MOVEMENT;

4 (6) THAT ALLOWS THE DOG TO BECOME ENTANGLED ON THE
5 RESTRAINT OR ANOTHER OBJECT;

6 (7) THAT RESTRICTS THE DOG'S ACCESS TO SUITABLE AND SUFFICIENT
7 FOOD, CLEAN WATER, OR APPROPRIATE SHELTER;

8 (8) IN UNSAFE OR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS;

9 (9) THAT PREVENTS THE DOG FROM DEFECATING OR URINATING IN AN
10 AREA SEPARATE FROM THE AREA IN WHICH THE DOG EATS, DRINKS, OR LIES DOWN;
11 OR

12 (10) THAT CAUSES INJURY TO THE DOG.

13 (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR
14 AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR A
15 FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.

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