

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 66

(Delegate Haddaway)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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**Talbot County - Dog and Kennel Licenses and Dog Tags**

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This bill requires the Talbot County Council to determine the fees, terms, and forms for dog and kennel licenses in Talbot County. Additionally, it alters the definition of “dog tag” in Talbot County to include a surgically implanted microchip.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** To the extent that Talbot County increases the fees for dog and kennel licenses as a result of this bill, revenues would increase. County expenditures should not be materially impacted.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Except in Carroll, Cecil, Montgomery, Howard, and Washington counties, the owner of a dog over six months old must apply for a license on or before the first day of July each year. In general, the fees for the dog license are as follows: \$1 for each male dog or spayed female dog; \$2 for each unspayed female dog; \$10 for each kennel license for owning or keeping up to 25 dogs; and \$20 for a kennel license for

keeping more than 25 dogs. In Talbot County, the license fee for a male dog or spayed female dog is \$1.50 and the fee for an unspayed female dog is \$3.00.

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and Worcester counties are authorized to set dog license fees. Howard and Wicomico counties are authorized to set the fees and terms for dog licenses. In Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties, a dog license expires when the rabies vaccination certificate expires. Carroll and Cecil counties are authorized to set the fees, terms, and forms of dog licenses.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Talbot County advises that it anticipates increasing dog and kennel license fees as a result of this bill. The county further advises that while it does not currently know by how much it will increase the license fees, it should only be an amount sufficient to cover expenses associated with animal control issues. For fiscal 2004 and 2005, the county collected approximately \$4,100 in license fee revenues. The county further advises that while the county keeps a portion of the fee for administrative purposes, it remits much of the revenue to the county's humane society.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** This bill was introduced as SB 528 in the 2005 session. The bill received a favorable with amendments report by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and was passed by the Senate. The bill, however, was never reported out of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

**Cross File:** SB 40 (Senator Colburn) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 18, 2006  
ncs/hlb

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