

# HOUSE BILL 1045

L2, E1

9lr1076

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By: **Cecil County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 24, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County – Regulation of Domestic Animals**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the number of persons required to make a sworn  
4 complaint in the District Court alleging that a domestic animal disturbs the  
5 peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area ~~of~~ or is vicious and  
6 has bitten any person, in Cecil County in order for a summons to be issued to  
7 the owner or keeper of the animal; altering a certain penalty; making stylistic  
8 changes; and generally relating to the regulation of domestic animals in Cecil  
9 County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions  
12 Section 11–504(1)(5)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions**

18 11–504.

19 (1) (5) It is unlawful in Cecil County for any person to own or keep a  
20 domestic animal which disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an  
21 inhabited area, or which is vicious and bites any person. Upon the sworn complaint in

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 the District Court sitting in Cecil County of any [two or more persons of different  
2 households] **PERSON** alleging that a domestic animal disturbs the peace and quiet of  
3 any neighborhood in an inhabited area of Cecil County, or upon the sworn complaint of  
4 any [one or more persons] **PERSON** that a domestic animal is vicious and has bitten  
5 any person, a summons shall issue to the owner or keeper of such domestic animal to  
6 appear in the District Court sitting in Cecil County. Upon proof that the domestic  
7 animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or is  
8 vicious and has bitten any person, the owner or keeper may be required to deliver up  
9 the offending domestic animal to be killed in the most humane manner possible unless  
10 he removes the domestic animal permanently from the neighborhood. If the owner or  
11 keeper is required to deliver up the domestic animal to be killed or to remove it as  
12 aforesaid, and he refuses or fails to do so, then it is the duty of any police officer or any  
13 duly empowered agent on behalf of the county to seize the domestic animal wherever it  
14 may be found and to cause it to be killed in the most humane manner possible. The  
15 court may order the domestic animal restrained or enter such other appropriate order  
16 as the case may require. Any owner failing to comply with the provisions of this  
17 paragraph or a court order entered thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon  
18 conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not more than [twenty-five dollars  
19 (\$25.00)] **\$500** for each offense. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this  
20 subsection, the barking of hunting dogs in pursuit of game [shall] **MAY** not be  
21 considered a disturbance of the public peace for the purposes hereof.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2009.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.