

CHAPTER 380

(House Bill 216)

AN ACT concerning

Calvert County - ~~Treasurer~~ - Animal Control Ordinance Fines - Fines and Licenses

FOR the purpose of altering the length of time a dog license in Calvert County remains effective; requiring certain fines issued in accordance with certain Calvert County ordinances to be paid to the Calvert County Treasurer; making technical corrections; and generally relating to ~~the payment of fines for violations of animal control ordinances~~ in Calvert County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions
Section 11-501(b) and 11-504(p)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions

11-501.

(b) In Calvert County the fees for dog licenses shall be determined by the County Commissioners. However, before establishing or altering any license fee, the Calvert County Commissioners shall advertise the proposed fee for 2 consecutive weeks in at least 2 newspapers of general circulation in Calvert County. All dog licenses will expire [1 year]1, 2, OR 3 YEARS after the date of issue, AS SPECIFIED BY COUNTY LAW.

11-504.

(p) (1) In addition to and not in substitution for any powers granted under this subtitle, the County Commissioners of Calvert County may by ordinance provide for the regulation, humane treatment, and keeping of domestic animals within Calvert County, including the authority to assess a penalty for a violation of a provision of an ordinance of imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

(2) ANY FINES ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ORDINANCE ENACTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAID TO THE CALVERT COUNTY TREASURER.

[(2)] **(3)** (i) The County Commissioners of Calvert County may create an Animal Matters Hearing Board to resolve disputes and controversies arising under the animal control ordinances adopted under this subsection.

(ii) The County Commissioners may authorize an Animal Matters Hearing Board to:

1. Issue a subpoena to compel parties in a dispute to appear before the Board;
2. Assess a civil penalty not exceeding \$1,000 for a violation of an ordinance adopted under this subsection; and
3. Collect a civil penalty imposed under this paragraph.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.