

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 912 (Delegates Kach and Olszewski)
Environmental Matters

Domestic Animals - Pet and Animal Guardians

This bill alters certain terminology relating to the ownership and guardianship of dogs. Specifically, the bill changes the term “own” and its variations to the term “guardian” or a variation of guardian in specified provisions of law relating to dogs in Article 24 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The bill also requires the publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, to replace all references throughout the code to the term “own” with the term “guardian” in reference to domestic animals, not including farm animals, in a manner consistent with the changes made in the bill to Article 24 and to describe these corrections in editor’s notes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect State operations of finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The term “own” is used to describe ownership of a dog under Article 24 Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions, Title 11, Subtitle 5, which generally applies to counties in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services,

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2012
mc/hlb

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