

# HOUSE BILL 89

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4lr0401

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Tarrant**

Requested: August 13, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Reports Relating to Dog Bites – Required Information**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain report regarding exposure to a possible  
4 rabies infection that involves a dog bite include certain information; and  
5 generally relating to reports of exposure to possible rabies infections.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Health – General  
8 Section 18–316  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Health – General**

14 18–316.

15 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an  
16 individual immediately shall report to the local police or sheriff if the individual:

17 (i) Knows that a dog, cat, or other warm blooded animal has  
18 bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed an individual to a possible rabies infection; or

19 (ii) Suspects that an animal has rabies.

20 (2) In Frederick County, the individual shall report to the animal  
21 control center of Frederick County.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(3) A REPORT MADE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
2 **SUBSECTION THAT INVOLVES A DOG BITE SHALL INCLUDE:**

3                   **(I) THE BREED OF THE DOG;**

4                   **(II) THE APPROXIMATE SIZE OF THE DOG; AND**

5                   **(III) THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT,**  
6 **INCLUDING THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHEN THE BITE**  
7 **OCCURRED.**

8           (b) On receipt of a report under this section, the police, sheriff, or animal  
9 control center staff shall:

10                   (1) Notify the health officer for the county where the report is made;  
11 and

12                   (2) Enforce all orders of the health officer and the public health  
13 veterinarian.

14           (c) If the public health veterinarian or the local health officer issues an order  
15 to surrender an animal that is suspected of having rabies, a person may not hide or  
16 secret the animal:

17                   (1) In the custody of the person; or

18                   (2) In the custody or with the cooperation of any other person.

19           (d) A person who fails or refuses to comply with any provision of this section  
20 or any order issued under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is  
21 subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2014.