

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 212 – *Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty – Sentencing Conditions*.

This bill authorizes a court, as a condition of sentencing, to prohibit a person convicted of the following offenses from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal for a specified period of time: felony dogfighting; felony cockfighting; or, possession of an implement of dogfighting. The bill also clarifies that a court must specify a period of time when it uses its authority to prohibit a person convicted of felony aggravated animal cruelty from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal.

Senate Bill 1038, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor