

HB0135/252315/1

BY: House Judiciary Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 135
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and K. Young” and substitute “K. Young, and Cardin”; and in line 2, strike “Seizure and Removal” and substitute “Payment of Costs”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike beginning with “requiring” in line 3 on page 1 down through “changes;” in line 6 on page 2 and substitute “authorizing a court to order a defendant convicted of a certain charge of animal cruelty, as a condition of sentencing, to pay, in addition to any other fines and costs, all reasonable costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, or euthanizing an animal confiscated from the defendant;”.

On page 2, in line 10, strike “10–615” and substitute “10–604, 10–607, and 10–608”; and after line 12, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 10–606

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter 238 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 2 through 6, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 2 through line 28 on page 6, inclusive, and substitute:

“10–604.

(Over)

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(a) A person may not:

(1) overdrive or overload an animal;

(2) deprive an animal of necessary sustenance;

(3) inflict unnecessary suffering or pain on an animal;

(4) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection; or

(5) if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or otherwise, unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with:

(i) nutritious food in sufficient quantity;

(ii) necessary veterinary care;

(iii) proper drink;

(iv) proper air;

(v) proper space;

(vi) proper shelter; or

(vii) proper protection from the weather.

(b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

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(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:

(I) participate in and pay for psychological counseling; AND

(II) PAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS, ALL REASONABLE COSTS INCURRED IN REMOVING, HOUSING, TREATING, OR EUTHANIZING AN ANIMAL CONFISCATED FROM THE DEFENDANT.

(3) As a condition of probation, the court may prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal.

10-606.

(a) A person may not:

(1) intentionally:

(i) mutilate;

(ii) torture;

(iii) cruelly beat; or

(iv) cruelly kill an animal;

(2) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1) of this subsection; or

(3) except in the case of self-defense, intentionally inflict bodily harm, permanent disability, or death on an animal owned or used by a law enforcement unit.

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(b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:

(i) order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:

1. participate in and pay for psychological counseling;

AND

2. PAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS, ALL REASONABLE COSTS INCURRED IN REMOVING, HOUSING, TREATING, OR EUTHANIZING AN ANIMAL CONFISCATED FROM THE DEFENDANT; and

(ii) prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal for a specified period of time.

10-607.

(a) In this section, "baiting" means using a dog to train a fighting dog or to test the fighting or killing instinct of another dog.

(b) A person may not:

(1) use or allow a dog to be used in a dogfight or for baiting;

(2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;

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(3) possess, own, sell, transport, or train a dog with the intent to use the dog in a dogfight or for baiting; or

(4) knowingly allow premises under the person's ownership, charge, or control to be used to conduct a dogfight or for baiting.

(c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:

(i) order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:

1. participate in and pay for psychological counseling;

AND

2. PAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS, ALL REASONABLE COSTS INCURRED IN REMOVING, HOUSING, TREATING, OR EUTHANIZING AN ANIMAL CONFISCATED FROM THE DEFENDANT; and

(ii) prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal for a specified period of time.

10-608.

(a) (1) In this section, "implement of cockfighting" means any implement or device intended or designed:

(i) to enhance the fighting ability of a fowl, cock, or other bird; or

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(ii) for use in a deliberately conducted event that uses a fowl, cock, or other bird to fight with another fowl, cock, or other bird.

(2) “Implement of cockfighting” includes:

(i) a gaff;

(ii) a slasher;

(iii) a postiza;

(iv) a sparring muff; and

(v) any other sharp implement designed to be attached in place of the natural spur of a gamecock or other fighting bird.

(b) A person may not:

(1) use or allow the use of a fowl, cock, or other bird to fight with another animal;

(2) possess, with the intent to unlawfully use, an implement of cockfighting;

(3) arrange or conduct a fight in which a fowl, cock, or other bird fights with another fowl, cock, or other bird;

(4) possess, own, sell, transport, or train a fowl, cock, or other bird with the intent to use the fowl, cock, or other bird in a cockfight; or

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(5) knowingly allow premises under the person's ownership, charge, or control to be used to conduct a fight in which a fowl, cock, or other bird fights with another fowl, cock, or other bird.

(c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:

(i) order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:

1. participate in and pay for psychological counseling;

AND

2. PAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS, ALL REASONABLE COSTS INCURRED IN REMOVING, HOUSING, TREATING, OR EUTHANIZING AN ANIMAL CONFISCATED FROM THE DEFENDANT; and

(ii) prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal for a specified period of time.”.