

HOUSE BILL 501

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9lr2146

By: **Delegates K. Young, Bagnall, Cullison, Healey, Jalisi, Kaiser, Korman, Lehman, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Reznik, and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes – Unattended Restraint of Dogs in Extreme Temperatures**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended by use
4 of a restraint for longer than a certain period in certain temperatures; providing that
5 certain penalties apply to a violation of this Act; and generally relating to the
6 unattended restraint of dogs.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Criminal Law

9 Section 10–623

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Criminal Law**

15 10–623.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) “Collar” means a device constructed of nylon, leather, or similar
18 material specifically designed to be used around the neck of a dog.

19 (3) “Restraint” means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device
20 that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

21 (b) A person may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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- 1 (1) that unreasonably limits the movement of the dog;
- 2 (2) that uses a collar that:
- 3 (i) is made primarily of metal; or
- 4 (ii) is not at least as large as the circumference of the dog's neck plus
5 1 inch;
- 6 (3) that restricts the access of the dog to suitable and sufficient clean water
7 or appropriate shelter;
- 8 (4) in unsafe or unsanitary conditions; [or]
- 9 **(5) FOR LONGER THAN 30 MINUTES WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS**
10 **ABOVE 90 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR BELOW 32 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT; OR**
- 11 **[(5)] (6)** that causes injury to the dog.
- 12 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
13 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2019.