

SENATE BILL 1148

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4lr3397

By: **Senators Kramer and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2024

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Cruelty to Law Enforcement Animals – Recklessness**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the mental state required as an element of a certain crime
4 against an animal owned or used by a law enforcement unit; and generally relating
5 to crimes against animals owned or used by law enforcement units.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Criminal Law
8 Section 10–606(b)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 10–606(c)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Criminal Law**

19 10–606.

20 (b) A person may not:

21 (1) intentionally:

22 (i) mutilate an animal;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) torture an animal;
- 2 (iii) cruelly beat an animal;
- 3 (iv) cruelly kill an animal; or
- 4 (v) engage in sexual contact with an animal;
- 5 (2) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1) of this
6 subsection; or
- 7 (3) except in the case of self-defense, [intentionally] **RECKLESSLY** inflict
8 bodily harm, permanent disability, or death on an animal owned or used by a law
9 enforcement unit.
- 10 (c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated
11 cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a
12 fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.
- 13 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:
- 14 (i) order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:
- 15 1. participate in and pay for psychological counseling; and
- 16 2. pay, in addition to any other fines and costs, all reasonable
17 costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, or euthanizing an animal confiscated from
18 the defendant; and
- 19 (ii) prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with
20 an animal for a specified period of time.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2024.