

HOUSE BILL 93

E2

4lr0548

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Murphy**

Requested: September 25, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty – Payment of Costs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a court to order a defendant convicted of a certain
4 charge of animal cruelty, as a condition of sentencing, to pay, in addition to any
5 other fines and costs, all reasonable costs incurred in removing, housing,
6 treating, euthanizing, or disposing of an animal confiscated from the defendant;
7 and generally relating to animal cruelty.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Law
10 Section 10–604, 10–606, 10–607, and 10–608
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 10–604.

17 (a) A person may not:

18 (1) overdrive or overload an animal;

19 (2) deprive an animal of necessary sustenance;

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (5) if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or
4 otherwise, unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with nutritious food in sufficient
5 quantity, necessary veterinary care, proper drink, air, space, shelter, or protection
6 from the weather.

7 (b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and
8 on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding
9 \$1,000 or both.

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

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

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

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

19 10-606.

20 (a) A person may not:

21 (1) intentionally mutilate, torture, cruelly beat, or cruelly kill an
22 animal;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 10-607.

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

10 (b) A person may not:

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

12 (2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;

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

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

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

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

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

23 **(II) PAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS, ALL**
24 **REASONABLE COSTS INCURRED IN REMOVING, HOUSING, TREATING,**
25 **EUTHANIZING, OR DISPOSING OF A DOG CONFISCATED FROM THE DEFENDANT.**

26 10-608.

27 (a) (1) In this section, “implement of cockfighting” means any implement
28 or device intended or designed:

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

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

3 (2) “Implement of cockfighting” includes:

4 (i) a gaff;

5 (ii) a slasher;

6 (iii) a postiza;

7 (iv) a sparring muff; and

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

10 (b) A person may not:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (II) PAY, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS, ALL
29 REASONABLE COSTS INCURRED IN REMOVING, HOUSING, TREATING,

1 EUTHANIZING, OR DISPOSING OF A FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER BIRD CONFISCATED
2 FROM THE DEFENDANT.

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