

in 1768 with the same title, to be later referred to. Other bills with this same title had met a similar fate at the 1762 and 1763 sessions. It is not clear just what was the significance, in connection with the two bills just discussed, of still another bill introduced in the Upper House by Daniel Dulany on November 22, 1765, and passed in that house the next day, entitled "An act to repeal an act for the encouragement of such persons as will undertake to build water mills" (pp. 55, 174), but it is certain that soon after it reached the Lower House it was, without explanation, rejected, and returned to the Upper House (pp. 61, 185). Its purpose may well have been to do away with, or prevent the erection of, dams which interfered with movements of fish; it was almost certainly rejected by the Lower House because of features objectionable to that body, such as the disposition of fines imposed under it.

It was not until three years later when separate acts for "regulating navigation" on the Potomac and its tributaries, and "for the preservation of the breed of fish" were enacted. At the May, 1768, session there was passed "an act to prevent any obstruction to the navigation of the river Potomack", which provided "that all fish dams or other devises for catching fish" be pulled down and all new erections of this kind be prohibited (Hanson's *Laws of Maryland made since MDCCLXIII*; acts of 1768, chapter V). At the same session there was also passed "an act for the preservation of the breed of fish" which prohibited "the erection of wears (wiers), dams, pots, and other devices" on the Susquehanna and Patuxent rivers by which fish may be obstructed from going up or down the river, and all such devices were declared illegal. The preamble cites that the reason for the enactment of this law was that for many years past large quantities of young fish unfit for use have been thus taken by which the number of fish in the rivers of the Province have been much diminished (Hanson's *Laws of Maryland made since MDCCLXIII*; acts of 1768, chapter IV).

*Dog licensing.* What was virtually an act for licensing dogs, apparently the first law of this character to come before a Maryland legislature, was passed at the November-December, 1765, session. A bill imposing taxes upon "house-keepers" who kept more than one dog was the cause of no little difference of opinion, not only between the two houses but among the delegates themselves, as is shown by the number of divisions with recorded votes to be found in the journal of the Lower House. The interest in this bill was of course due to the fact that every household kept dogs, and because of the danger to sheep and other stock from dogs running at large, as is indicated by its title, "An Act to prevent the mischiefs arising from the multiplicity of useless dogs". With the details of the act we need not concern ourselves here. As showing the interest in the subject, when the bill, after its passage, was sent by the Lower House to the Upper House, fourteen amendments were added there (pp. 55-57), in most of which the Lower House finally acquiesced (p. 182). The bill was then passed and became a law (pp. 274-278). The act imposed a license fee dependent upon the size of the household, and provided how damages might be recovered by owners of sheep or hogs which had been injured or killed by dogs. It also provided that convicts or negroes found "rambling with dogs" should be whipped (p. 277).