

Therefore, I am returning House Bill No. 579 without my approval.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK/jmt

May 7, 1951

Hon. John C. Luber
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

House Bill No. 648, which relates to fees for dog licenses and modifies the penalty provisions relative to delinquent payments in Anne Arundel County, is being returned for the following reasons:

The present Anne Arundel County Dog Law is in the nature of a regulation to police dogs that are a potential danger in the communities and therefore the cost of licenses should be set in proportion to the trouble of policing these animals.

It is a firmly established policy that a female license should be at least double that of a male or spayed female, as such a ratio serves to encourage the owning of male or spayed female pets, rather than females, but that incentive is lost when the difference in cost of a license is only 50 cents. Anne Arundel County's present differential of \$2.00 and \$4.00 has helped to increase the number of spayed females from 474 in 1946 to 994 in 1950, and this has helped to reduce the number of unwanted mongrels that become strays and destroy property. The annual loss of such property in Anne Arundel County has been reduced from \$1,842.67 in 1946 to \$782.92 in 1950. Also, the placing of a maximum penalty of \$3.00 for delinquency in buying a license after the maximum of \$3.00 is reached by a delinquent, leaves no incentive for the owner to buy a license unless and until he is discovered and forced to comply with the law.

For these reasons, and at the request of the County Commissioners of Anne Arundel County, I am returning the Bill without my approval.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK/jmt