

CHAPTER 680

(House Bill 494)

AN ACT to repeal Section 194(1) of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1967 Supplement), title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties" and to enact new Section 194(1) in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section repealed, amending the dog control laws of ~~Harford and Cecil Counties~~ COUNTY in order to authorize the County Commissioners of Cecil County to enact certain domestic animal control regulations.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 194(1) of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1967 Supplement), title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties" be and it is hereby repealed and that new Section 194(1) be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section repealed and to read as follows:*

194(1).

(1) *In addition to and not in substitution for any powers granted under this subtitle, the county commissioners of Harford County by resolution or ordinance enacted according to its usual procedure may provide for a comprehensive system for regulation of dogs in the county, including licensing and control of dogs. As a part of such regulation the county commissioners may establish separate dog control districts in the county with regulations applicable solely within the district, provide for the impounding and disposal of dogs found to be dangerous to persons and property, and provide reasonable penalties for violations of any regulations applicable to dogs.*

(2) *It is unlawful in Harford County for any person to own or keep a dog which disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or which is vicious and bites any person. Upon the sworn complaint before the People's Court of Harford County of any two or more persons of different households alleging that a dog disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area of Harford County, or upon the sworn complaint of any one or more persons that a dog is vicious and has bitten any person, a summons shall issue to the owner or keeper of such dog to appear before the People's Court in Harford County. Upon proof that the dog disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood in an inhabited area, or is vicious and has bitten any person, the owner or keeper may be required to deliver up the offending dog to be killed in the most humane manner possible unless he removes the dog permanently from the neighborhood. If the owner or keeper is required to deliver up the dog to be killed or to remove it as aforesaid, and he refuses or fails to do so, then it is the duty of any police officer or any duly empowered agent on behalf of the county to seize the dog wherever it may be found and to cause it to be killed in the most humane manner possible. The court may order the dog restrained or enter such other appropriate order as the case may require. Any owner failing to comply with the provisions of this paragraph or a court order entered thereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction*