

CHAPTER 616  
(House Bill 918)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 197 and 198 of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties," to provide that persons making claims to the county dog licensing agencies in ~~the various counties~~ IN KENT COUNTY for reimbursement for damages caused by dogs must do so within 30 days of the damage.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 197 and 198 of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

197.

All monies arising from the dog licenses or taxes shall be kept in a separate fund by the treasurer of the respective counties, or tax collecting office thereof, and shall be used for the payment of damages for the injury and killing of sheep, poultry or other livestock in said respective counties, *according to the procedures set out in Section 198 of this Article.* In the event the same are not sufficient for the payment of all such damages the said damages shall be paid in the order the claims are presented, and any person or persons whose claims are not paid in any one year by reason of the lack of money to the credit of the said fund, which is to be designed "the dog license fund," shall be paid out of the first money coming into the fund after his claim is reached, and shall be paid in the order in which said claims are proved and filed; and any claims now filed and passed upon, but remaining unpaid, shall have preference over any new claims in the order of payment. The county commissioners of the several counties are hereby authorized to expend any funds in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) remaining in the hands of the treasurer or the tax collecting officer after the payment of the claims as aforesaid, for any public purpose which, in their judgment, may seem right and proper, and are further empowered, whenever in their judgment it may become necessary to do so, to enter into a contract or agreement with such persons, association of persons or corporations as they may deem suitable, for the removal, care and disposition of unlicensed dogs, or licensed dogs which may create a menace to the safety, security and property of the residents of said counties, on such terms and conditions and for such compensation as may be agreed to by the said county commissioners and such persons, associations of persons or corporations. In Washington County, the County Commissioners are authorized to pay out of the fund claims for damages to shrubbery and trees, and for damages to personal property of any kind. The provisions of this section dealing with the maintenance of a separate fund designated "the dog license fund" are not applicable to Harford and Allegany counties. In Harford County and in Allegany County all such monies collected and all such claims paid shall be from general funds of the county.