

CHAPTER 113

(Senate Bill 769)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 194 (1) of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume), title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties," to provide that the County Commissioners of Harford County may make ordinances in substitution for the provision of this section; that persons violating any ordinance may be brought to court by the use of a summons BASED UPON THE SWORN COMPLAINT OF ANY PERSON; CORRECTING CERTAIN LANGUAGE THEREIN CONCERNING HARFORD COUNTY; to renumber certain paragraphs; and generally relating thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 194 (1) of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume), title "Licenses," subtitle "Dog Licenses in the Counties," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and to read as follows:

194.

(1) (1) In addition to ~~and not~~ or 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~~ the 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) *In Harford County a law enforcement officer, upon witnessing a violation of any Harford County dog regulation or ordinance, may issue a summons for that violation and bring the violator before the District Court in Harford County.*

~~(2)~~ (3) 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~~ DISTRICT Court of SITTING IN Harford County of any ~~two or more persons of different households~~ PERSON 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~~ DISTRICT Court SITTING 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