

MARYLAND, That section (s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 56 - Licenses

194.

(e) (1) The boards of county commissioners of Allegany, Charles, Frederick, St. Mary's and Carroll counties [are hereby authorized and empowered] MAY, in order to safeguard the health, safety and public welfare of the residents of [such] THOSE counties [to] pass rules, regulations or resolutions for the purpose of carrying out the powers hereinafter granted[, provided that such]. THE rules, regulations or resolutions shall contain proper standards for the exercise of the discretion contained herein, and shall operate uniformly. The [said] rules, regulations or resolutions shall provide for the sale of dog licenses in said county, the keeping of records of all sales, the designation of persons authorized to sell such licenses, the taking into custody and disposition of any dogs found running at large within the limits of such county with power to delegate by written contract the enforcement of such rules, regulations or resolutions, provided, however, in any such contract said boards of county commissioners shall reserve the right to cancel, without notice or recourse, [such] THE delegation for stated cause or on thirty days notice without cause. Before the county commissioners shall proceed to enforce any rule, regulation or resolution, passed in pursuance of the provisions of this section, advertisement of such rule, regulation or resolution shall be made in some newspaper of general circulation published in such county once each week for four (4) successive weeks, in order to provide any person, firm or corporation adversely affected thereby an opportunity to be heard by the county commissioners in opposition to the adoption of such rule, regulation or resolution. The [said] boards of county commissioners [are further authorized and empowered to] MAY ALSO enter into a contract with any animal welfare or humane society or any other individual, association or corporation specially qualified for the purposes hereinafter set forth, for the establishment of a dog pound, and for the collection, disposition and destruction of stray, injured and sick dogs. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 195 of this article, [said] THE county commissioners may [in their discretion] use all or any part of the dog license tax for the establishment of said pound, and for the collection or destruction of said dogs.

(2) IN FREDERICK COUNTY, THE POWERS GRANTED THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE REGULATION OF DOGS ARE ALSO GRANTED FOR THE REGULATION OF CATS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1978.