

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland read(s) as follows:

Article 56 - Licenses

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(a) All moneys 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 the respective counties, according to the procedures set out in § 198 of this article. In the event there are insufficient funds for the payment of all damages the 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 fund, which is to be designated "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 the 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 may expend any funds in excess of \$1,000 remaining in the hands of the treasurer or the tax collecting officer after the payment of the claims for any public purpose which, in their judgment, may seem right and proper, and, whenever in their judgment it may become necessary to do so, may enter into a contract or agreement with the persons, association of persons or corporations 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 the counties, on the terms and conditions and for the compensation that may be agreed to by the county commissioners and the persons, associations of persons or corporations.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) In GARRETT COUNTY, Harford County, Howard County, and Allegany County all moneys collected and all claims paid shall be from general funds of the county.