

(I) CUSTOMARY AND NORMAL VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DEHORNING, CASTRATION, DOCKING TAILS, OR LIMIT FEEDING; OR

(II) RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROTOCOLS APPROVED BY AN ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE, AS REQUIRED UNDER THE FEDERAL ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OR THE FEDERAL HEALTH RESEARCH EXTENSION ACT.

(2) WHEN ACTIVITIES IN WHICH PHYSICAL PAIN MAY UNAVOIDABLY BE CAUSED TO ANIMALS, AS IN FOOD PROCESSING, PEST ELIMINATION, ANIMAL TRAINING, OR HUNTING, "CRUELTY" MEANS A FAILURE TO EMPLOY THE MOST HUMANE METHOD REASONABLY AVAILABLE.

(3) A PERSON MAY NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR NORMAL HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE INFLICTION OF PAIN TO AN ANIMAL IS PURELY INCIDENTAL AND UNAVOIDABLE.

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

4-301.

(b) Except as provided in § 4-302 of this subtitle, the District Court also has exclusive original jurisdiction in a criminal case in which a person at least 18 years old or a corporation is charged with:

(13) Violation of Article 27, § 388A of the Code; [or]

(14) Violation of Title 11, Subtitle 5 of the Financial Institutions Article;

OR

(15) VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 27, § 59 OF THE CODE, WHETHER FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR

4-302.

(a) Except as provided in § 4-301(b)(2), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), [and] (14), AND (15) of this subtitle, the District Court does not have jurisdiction to try a criminal case charging the commission of a felony.

(d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the jurisdiction of the District Court is concurrent with that of the circuit court in a criminal case:

(i) In which the penalty may be confinement for three years or more or a fine of \$2,500 or more; or

(ii) Which is a felony, as provided in § 4-301(b)(2), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), [and] (14), AND (15) of this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2001.

Approved May 18, 2001.