

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 380

(House Bill 600)

AN ACT concerning

Dorchester County - ~~Dog~~ Animal Control - Civil Penalties

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing~~ establishing that the County Commissioners of Dorchester County ~~to~~ may impose civil penalties for violations of county animal control ordinances; authorizing the County Commissioners to provide for the prosecution of a violation of a certain county animal control ordinance in a certain manner and to a certain extent; and generally relating to animal control violation penalties in Dorchester County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 11-504(o)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions

11-504.

(o) ~~(1)~~ (1) In addition to and not in substitution for any powers granted under this subtitle, the county commissioners of Dorchester, Garrett, and Somerset counties may by ordinance provide for a comprehensive system for the regulation of dogs and cats within the county, including licensing and control. These regulations may include provision for the impounding and disposal of unlicensed or dangerous dogs and cats and penalties, INCLUDING IN DORCHESTER COUNTY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES, for violations of any of the provisions of the regulations.

(2) IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION OF A COUNTY DOG OR CAT CONTROL ORDINANCE SHALL BE PROSECUTED BY THE COUNTY IN THE SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT AS PROVIDED FOR MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 23A, § 3(B) OF THE CODE.

~~(2) IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY, BY ORDINANCE, IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION OF A COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.