

(o) (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 and Garrett County] civil or criminal penalties, for violations of any of the provisions of the regulations.

(2) In Dorchester County [and], Garrett County, AND SOMERSET 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.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.

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## CHAPTER 43

(House Bill 116)

AN ACT concerning

**Mental Hygiene – Emergency Evaluation Petitions – Licensed Clinical  
Marriage and Family Therapists**

FOR the purpose of adding licensed clinical marriage and family therapists to the professionals authorized to diagnose a mental disorder for purposes of seeking an emergency evaluation of an individual; authorizing licensed clinical marriage and family therapists to petition for an emergency evaluation and to sign and submit the emergency evaluation to peace officers; and generally relating to licensed clinical marriage and family therapists and emergency evaluation petitions.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 10–601, 10–620, 10–622, 10–623, and 10–624

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)