

A009-0910

10 **An Act Concerning**

20 **Criminal Law – Crimes Against Public Health, Conduct, and Sensibilities – Crimes Relating to**
30 **Animals**

40 FOR the purpose of removing provisions in the Maryland State Code relating to dog fighting;

50 BY amending
60 Article – Criminal Law
70 Section 10.6-05 through 10.6-07
80 Annotated Code of Maryland

90 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE, That the Laws of
100 Maryland read as follows:

110 **Article 10 – Crimes Against Public Health, Conduct, and Sensibilities**
120 **§10-605**

130 ~~(a) *Dogfighting.*— A person may not knowingly attend a deliberately conducted dogfight as a spectator~~

140 **(A) (b) *Cockfighting.*— A person may not knowingly attend as a spectator a deliberately conducted event**
150 **that uses a fowl, cock, or other bird to fight with another fowl, cock, or other bird.**

160 **(B) ~~(c)~~ *Penalty.*—**

170 (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to
180 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.

190 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this
200 section to participate in and pay for psychological counseling.

210 **§10-607**

220 **(a) Prohibited activities.— A person may not:**

230 ~~(1) use or allow a dog to be used in a dogfight;~~

240 ~~(2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;~~

250 ~~(3) possess, own, sell, transport, or train a dog with the intent to use the dog in a dogfight; or~~

260 ~~(4) knowingly allow premises under the person's ownership, charge, or control to be used to~~
270 ~~conduct a dogfight.~~

280 **(1) Allow a dog trained for dog fighting to wander in public without a leash and muzzle.**

290 **(b) *Penalty.*—**

300 (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals and
310 on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or
320 both

330 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this
340 section to participate in and pay for psychological counseling.

350 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2011

360 **MANDATES:**

370 Kumar P. Barve, House Majority Leader

380 Anthony J. O'Donnell, House Minority Leader

390 Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, President of the Senate

400 Allen H. Kittleman, Senate Minority Leader

SPONSOR:

Matthew Emery, McDaniel College

Speaker of the Assembly