

SENATE BILL 26

E1

5lr0758

By: **Senator Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2015

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty – Leaving Dogs Outside in Extreme**
3 **Temperatures**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended by use
5 of a certain restraint during a snow emergency declared by the State Police or during
6 a certain period in which the temperature is below a certain temperature for a
7 certain amount of time; establishing penalties for a violation of this Act; and
8 generally relating to the unattended restraint of dogs.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Criminal Law
11 Section 10–623
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Criminal Law**

17 10–623.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) “Collar” means a device constructed of nylon, leather, or similar
20 material specifically designed to be used around the neck of a dog.

21 (3) “Restraint” means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device
22 that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system.

23 (b) A person may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) that unreasonably limits the movement of the dog;
- 2 (2) that uses a collar that:
- 3 (i) is made primarily of metal; or
- 4 (ii) is not at least as large as the circumference of the dog's neck plus
- 5 1 inch;
- 6 (3) that restricts the access of the dog to suitable and sufficient clean water
- 7 or appropriate shelter;
- 8 (4) in unsafe or unsanitary conditions; [or]
- 9 (5) that causes injury to the dog;
- 10 **(6) DURING A SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE STATE POLICE;**

11 **OR**

12 **(7) DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH THE LOCAL TEMPERATURE IS 32**

13 **DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR BELOW FOR AT LEAST 1 HOUR.**

14 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction

15 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

17 October 1, 2015.