

HOUSE BILL 665

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4r1784
CF SB 659

By: **Delegates Kramer, Barkley, Fraser-Hidalgo, A. Miller, S. Robinson,
Simmons, Stocksdale, and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes Relating to Animals – Surgery on Dogs – Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person, other than a licensed veterinarian using
4 anesthesia, from performing certain procedures on a dog; establishing penalties
5 for a violation of this Act; and generally relating to crimes relating to animals.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Criminal Law

8 Section 10–624

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Criminal Law**

14 **10–624.**

15 **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A**
16 **PERSON MAY NOT:**

17 **(1) CROP OR CUT OFF THE EAR OF A DOG;**

18 **(2) DOCK OR CUT OFF THE TAIL OF A DOG;**

19 **(3) CUT OFF THE DEWCLAW OF A DOG; OR**

20 **(4) SURGICALLY BIRTH A DOG.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) A PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION**
2 **MAY BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN USING ANESTHESIA ON THE**
3 **ANIMAL.**

4 **(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A**
5 **MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO:**

6 **(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90**
7 **DAYS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH; AND**

8 **(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT**
9 **NOT EXCEEDING 180 DAYS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2014.