

Chapter 44

(Senate Bill 360)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – Aggravated Animal Cruelty – Baiting

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using or allowing a dog to be used for baiting; prohibiting a person from possessing, owning, selling, transporting, or training a dog with the intent to use the dog for baiting; prohibiting a person from knowingly allowing certain premises to be used for baiting; defining a certain term; and generally relating to dogfights and baiting.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 10–607
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

10–607.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BAITING” MEANS USING A DOG TO TRAIN A FIGHTING DOG OR TO TEST THE FIGHTING OR KILLING INSTINCT OF ANOTHER DOG.

[(a)] (B) A person may not:

- (1) use or allow a dog to be used in a dogfight **OR FOR BAITING**;
- (2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;
- (3) possess, own, sell, transport, or train a dog with the intent to use the dog in a dogfight **OR FOR BAITING**; or
- (4) knowingly allow premises under the person’s ownership, charge, or control to be used to conduct a dogfight **OR FOR BAITING**.

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2013.