

HOUSE BILL 1192

E1

3lr2395

By: **Delegate Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Animal Cruelty – Suspected Commission by a Minor**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an officer or authorized agent of a humane society to
4 investigate a suspected case of animal cruelty committed by a minor and authorizing
5 the officer or authorized agent to coordinate with certain social services entities to
6 conduct certain evaluations, monitoring, and support of a minor suspected of
7 committing animal cruelty; authorizing an officer or authorized agent of a humane
8 society or a police officer or other public official required to protect animals to seize
9 an animal if necessary for the protection of the animal under certain circumstances;
10 and generally relating to animal cruelty.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 10–627
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Criminal Law**

19 **10–627.**

20 **(A) IF A MINOR IS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING AN ACT OF ANIMAL**
21 **CRUELTY, AN OFFICER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT OF A HUMANE SOCIETY SHALL**
22 **CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.**

23 **(B) IF THE OFFICER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THE**
24 **MINOR COMMITTED AN ACT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY, THE OFFICER OR AUTHORIZED**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 AGENT MAY COORDINATE WITH APPROPRIATE SOCIAL SERVICES ENTITIES TO:

2 (1) EVALUATE THE THREAT OF SELF-HARM OR HARM TO OTHERS
3 POSED BY THE MINOR; AND

4 (2) PROVIDE ONGOING MONITORING AND SUPPORT OF THE MINOR AS
5 APPROPRIATE.

6 (C) (1) IF A MINOR IS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING AN ACT OF ANIMAL
7 CRUELTY, AN OFFICER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR A POLICE
8 OFFICER OR OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIAL REQUIRED TO PROTECT ANIMALS MAY SEIZE
9 AN ANIMAL IF NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ANIMAL.

10 (2) THE SEIZURE OF AN ANIMAL UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
11 SUBSECTION IS NOT DEPENDENT ON AN ADJUDICATION OF DELINQUENCY OR A
12 CONVICTION.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2023.