

HB0667/333229/1

BY: Judiciary Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 667
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**and Terrasa**” and substitute “**Terrasa, Schmidt, Valentine, and Conaway**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 3, after the first “of” insert “establishing that certain crimes relating to animals do not apply to certain activities;”; in line 4, after “offense” insert “and shall be deemed an individual victim for purposes of the sentencing guidelines stacking rule”; and after line 8, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Criminal Law

Section 10-603

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, after line 16, insert:

“10-603.

Sections 10-601 through 10-608 and 10-626 of this subtitle do not apply to:

(1) customary and normal veterinary and agricultural husbandry practices including dehorning, castration, tail docking, and limit feeding;

(2) research conducted in accordance with protocols approved by an animal care and use committee, as required under the federal Animal Welfare Act or the federal Health Research Extension Act;

(3) an activity that may cause unavoidable physical pain to an animal[, including food processing, pest elimination, animal training, and hunting,] if the person performing the activity uses the most humane method reasonably available, INCLUDING:

(I) FOOD PROCESSING;

(II) PEST ELIMINATION;

(III) ANIMAL TRAINING; AND

(IV) ANY HUNTING OR FISHING ACTIVITY COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 4 OR TITLE 10 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE OR ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THOSE TITLES; or

(4) normal human activities in which the infliction of pain to an animal is purely incidental and unavoidable.”;

and in line 19, after “OFFENSE” insert “**AND SHALL BE DEEMED AN INDIVIDUAL VICTIM FOR PURPOSES OF THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES STACKING RULE**”.