

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF BILL 21-3
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Take Notice that Bill 21-3 (Public Safety – Animal Control) was introduced by Commissioners Bertino, Bunting, Church, Elder, Mitrecic, Nordstrom and Purnell on April 20, 2021.

A fair summary of the bill is as follows:

§ PS 2-101(b). (Adds the definition for “breeder” in the Public Safety Article to describe the ownership of six or more intact female dogs and establishes a maximum limit on the sale of puppies or kittens of three litters per calendar year.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Adds the definition for “commercial” in the Public Safety Article to describe an activity where the intent is to make a profit, regardless of the form of compensation.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Revises the definition for “dog” in the Public Safety Article to include a cross-breed with a wolf.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Adds the definition for “kennel, commercial” in the Public Safety Article to describe an establishment that boards, breeds, treats, sells, rents, trains or exhibits more than five dogs or cats, other than a licensed veterinary hospital or office; establishes an exception for the ownership of no more than eight dogs or cats for personal use or companionship, hunting, exhibition, field working, or obedience trials, and establishes a maximum limit on the sale of puppies or kittens from two litters per calendar year.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Adds the definition for “kennel, shelter” in the Public Safety Article to describe the structure, building, enclosure or run that is designed for the shelter or keeping of an animal.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Revises the definition for “leash” in the Public Safety Article for stylistic changes.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Adds the definition for “litter” in the Public Safety Article to describe the single birth of multiple animals to one female animal.)

§ PS 2-101(b). (Eliminates the definition for “suitable shelter” in the Public Safety Article as it is further defined in § PS 2-101(w).)

§ PS 2-101(i). (Revises the stray hold time from ten days to three business days.)

§ PS 2-101(v). (Establishes certain conditions in which the tethering of an animal is prohibited.)

§ PS 2-101(w). (Makes certain stylistic changes, and establishes additional requirements for suitable shelters.)

§ PS 2-101(x). (Differentiates a shelter kennel from a suitable shelter, establishes standards for a shelter kennel and simplifies the calculation for the amount of square feet required in a shelter kennel per dog or cat.)

§ PS 2-102(h). (Clarifies that a commercial kennel is subject to a commercial kennel license; provides that licenses shall not be transferrable; updates the record keeping requirements for a commercial kennel license holder; establishes minimum standards of care for puppies and kittens associated with a breeder.)

§ PS 2-102(l). (Establishes a provision for the County Commissioners to adopt additional standards by resolution.)

§ PS 2-102(m). (Establishes what constitutes a violation, and the penalties and remedies available.)

A Public Hearing

will be held on Bill 21-3 at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Room 1101 – Government Center, One West Market Street, Snow Hill, Maryland on **Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

This is only a fair summary of the bill. A full copy of the bill is posted on the Legislative Bulletin Board in the main hall of the Worcester County Government Center outside Room 1103, is available for public inspection in Room 1103 of the Worcester County Government Center once County Government Offices are opened to the public. In the interim, a full copy of the bill is available on the County Website at www.co.worcester.md.us.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS