

## CHAPTER 296

(Senate Bill 322)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws - Leaving Cats and Dogs  
in Motor Vehicles - Police Dogs and Other Animals

FOR the purpose of prohibiting any person from using any force to remove from a motor vehicle an on duty police dog or a cat or dog in the custody of an animal control officer; and providing that certain provisions of law relating to unattended vehicles do not apply to law enforcement officers and animal control officers under certain circumstances.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Transportation  
Section 21-1004.1 and 21-1101  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1987 Replacement Volume)

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

## Article - Transportation

21-1004.1.

(a) A person may not leave a cat or dog unattended in a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the cat or dog.

(b) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A person may use reasonable force to remove from a motor vehicle a cat or dog left in the vehicle in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section if the person is:

- (1) A law enforcement officer;
- (2) A public safety employee of the State or of a local governing body;
- (3) An animal control officer under the jurisdiction of the State or a local governing body;