



# The National Agricultural Law Center

[nationalaglawcenter.org](http://nationalaglawcenter.org) | [nataglaw@uark.edu](mailto:nataglaw@uark.edu) | [@nataglaw](https://twitter.com/nataglaw)

States' Animal Identification Statutes:

*Maryland*



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

# A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

## States' Animal Identification Statutes: Maryland

Md. Code, Agric. § 3-101

Md. Code, Agric. § 3-118

Md. Code, Agric. § 3-305

*Current through legislation effective through May 9, 2024, from the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.*

### **Md. Code, Agric. § 3-101. General powers and responsibilities of Secretary.**

(a) The Secretary shall protect the health of the domestic animals of the State from all contagious or infectious diseases. For this purpose, the Secretary may:

- (1) Adopt and enforce quarantine, sanitary, or other rules and regulations he deems necessary;
- (2) Make and prosecute diligent inquiries in the several counties to ascertain the exact condition of the health of the livestock; and
- (3) Notwithstanding § 3-102 of this subtitle, prohibit the importation from another state of any animal he has reason to believe is infected with or has been exposed to a contagious or infectious disease and detain the animal at any place for inspection or quarantine.

(b) The Secretary may establish, maintain, and enforce a quarantine order if he determines it is urgent and necessary for the prompt performance of the provisions provided in this section.

(c) The Secretary may adopt rules and regulations governing the importation of domestic animals into the State from another state.

(d)

- (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall maintain all animal health diagnostic or analytical reports and reports filed under an animal health program established by the Secretary in a manner that protects the identity of the animal owner.
- (2)



(i) If the Secretary determines that the disclosure is necessary to protect the public health or prevent the spread of an infectious or contagious disease, the Secretary may disclose identifying information.

(ii) In determining whether disclosure is necessary to protect the public health or prevent the spread of an infectious or contagious disease, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Health.

**Md. Code, Agric. § 3-118. Prohibited actions concerning animal information.**

(a) A person may not willfully make a false statement to the Department as to:

- (1) The identity of an animal;
- (2) The location of an animal;
- (3) The place of origin or destination of an animal; or
- (4) The health status of an animal, including whether an animal is infected with or has been exposed to a contagious or infectious disease.

(b) A person may not willfully provide false information on any report to the Department or provide false information to any person completing any animal health certificate, any laboratory report, or other document pertaining to the health status of any animal.

(c) A person may not willfully alter any animal health certificate or report issued by a veterinarian, any laboratory, any agency of the State of Maryland or its political subdivisions, any agency of the United States or the several states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia or any sovereign nation regarding the health of any animal entering, leaving, transiting, or residing in the State.

(d) A person may not knowingly possess any altered animal health certificate or animal health report or present to any party as genuine, an altered or invalid animal health certificate or report regarding the health of any animal entering, leaving, transiting, or residing in the State.

(e) A person may not willfully alter, damage, use, or attempt to use, with the intention to deceive, any animal cargo seal device, an animal or premises identification number, an animal or premises identification device, or an animal or premises registration document used in any animal health program of the Department.

(f) A person may not knowingly make false statements or misrepresentations of fact to the Department in the application for any animal health program license, permit, registration, certification, diagnostic service, or



an application for participation in any other animal health program of the Department.

(g) A person may not willfully alter any license, permit, registration, certificate, laboratory or other report, order, sign, or any other completed document issued by the Department for the purpose of regulating or promoting animal health.

(h) A person may not knowingly possess or present to any party as genuine, an altered or invalid license, permit, registration, certificate, laboratory or other report, order, or any other completed document issued by the Department for the purpose of regulating or promoting animal health.

**Md. Code, Agric. § 3-305. Records of animals received and disposed of.**

(a) Each licensed livestock market operator and licensed livestock dealer shall maintain a record covering all animals received and disposed of by him or his agents. The record shall include date of receipt, date of sale, and name and address of consignor and purchaser. Each animal shall be identified by any of the following (1) by a metal ear tag number, tattoo number, purebred name and registry number, or horn or hoof brand number, or any other method approved by the Secretary, and (2) by breed, sex, age, approximate weight, and health status. The record also shall show the purpose for which the animals are consigned, that is, whether for breeding, feeding, grazing, or milk production. Every record shall be retained for three years.

(b) Individual identification is not required for (1) steers, (2) spayed heifers, or (3) calves under eight months of age of beef type for feeding and grazing purposes.

