



Maryland Association for Justice, Inc.

2022 Position Paper

SB 70

Emergency Medical System Plan - Guidelines for Emergency Medical Services - Law Enforcement Canines

Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ) is an organization of trial lawyers. Our members represent victims injured in car accidents, medical malpractice cases, and other cases of negligence.

SB 70 requires the Emergency Medical System plan to include guidelines that authorize emergency medical services personnel to provide emergency medical services to canines injured in the line of duty with law enforcement agencies. The bill expands upon a similar bill that was passed by the General Assembly in 2017 (SB 269 – CH 411) regarding “Emergency Veterinary Care – Immunity From Liability.” That bill outlines circumstances in which an individual may respond to an animal at the scene of an accident and the immunity afforded to that person should they act within certain parameters. One of the clarifying provisions presented in CH 411, under now codified MD Courts & JPR Section 5–614 (b)(2), states that those who provide aid, care, or assistance to the animal is eligible for immunity only if the care provided was without fee or compensation.

MAJ is critical of legislative grants of immunity and often tries to offer clarifying amendments on immunity provisions and/or point to existing immunities that have already been codified. MAJ respectfully asks that the committee conform SB 70 to immunity provisions outlined in MD Courts & JPR Section 5–614 with the following amendment.

MAJ Amendment – SB 70

Beginning on Page 2 of SB 70, Line 29. Insert the following language after “GOOD FAITH”

- 29 **SERVICES TO THE CANINE IN GOOD FAITH; ~~AND~~ AND WITHOUT FEE OR COMPENSATION; AND**

MAJ Respectfully urges a Favorable with Amendments Report