



Secular Maryland

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SB 872 - FAV

Criminal Law - Animal Abuse or Neglect - Penalties

Dear Chair William C. Smith Jr, Vice-Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Animals are not a separate category of life fundamentally different from us who were placed on earth by a deity for the benefit of humans. We are all animals. We can, and therefore we should, do better to protect animals from mistreatment. This bill creates a second penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$5000 for animal abuse that results in the death of the victim. The penalty for animal abuse that does result in the death of the victim remains imprisonment of up to 90 days and up to one year imprisonment. Secular Maryland supports legislation to protect animals from mistreatment.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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