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March 26, 2025

SB 80 - FAV

Criminal Law - Animal Abuse or Neglect - Penalties

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice-Chair J. Sandy Bartlett, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This bill creates a second penalty of up to 3 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 not result in the death of the victim remains imprisonment of up to 90 days and a fine up to \$1000. We are all animals. 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 can, and therefore we should, do better to protect animals from mistreatment by creating this second tier of penalties for more severe abuse. Secular Maryland supports this bill that improves protection of animals from mistreatment.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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