

HOUSE BILL 561

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1999 Regular Session
9r1487
CF 9r1486

By: **Delegates Montague, Arnick, Pitkin, and Snodgrass**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1999
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Damages for Injury to or Death of Pet Animal**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the measure of damages for tortious injuries to a pet
4 animal; clarifying that certain damages may be recovered for the tortious death
5 of a pet animal; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating
6 to damages for tortious injury to or death of a pet animal.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 11-110
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1998 Replacement Volume)

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

14 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 11-110.

16 (a) (1) In this section "pet" means a domesticated animal.

17 (2) "Pet" does not include livestock.

18 (b) The measure of damages for tortious injuries to OR DEATH OF a pet is THE
19 GREATER OF:

20 (1) the market value of the pet before the injury OR DEATH [or]; OR

21 (2) the [reasonable] ACTUAL cost of veterinary care [, but not more than
22 \$2,500 if such charge is greater].

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
24 construed only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect
25 on or application to a cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 1999.