

HOUSE BILL 438

D3
SB 292/21 – JPR

51r2325
CF 51r2324

By: **Delegates Bartlett, Hill, Kipke, Lehman, Ruth, and Nkongolo**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Civil Actions – Tortious Injury to or Death of Pet – Compensatory Damages**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the maximum amount of compensatory damages that may be
4 awarded to an owner of a pet from a person who tortiously causes an injury to or
5 death of the pet under certain circumstances; and generally relating to tortious
6 injuries to or death of pets.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 11–110
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 11–110.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) “Compensatory damages” means:

18 (i) In the case of the death of a pet, the fair market value of the pet
19 before death and the reasonable and necessary cost of veterinary care; and

20 (ii) In the case of an injury to a pet, the reasonable and necessary
21 cost of veterinary care.

22 (3) (i) “Pet” means a domesticated animal.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) "Pet" does not include livestock.

2 (b) (1) A person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet while
3 acting individually or through an animal under the person's ownership, direction, or control
4 is liable to the owner of the pet for compensatory damages.

5 (2) The damages awarded under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not
6 exceed [~~\$10,000~~] **\$25,000**.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2025.