



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control  
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143  
Easton, Maryland 21601**

---

**SB 672 Criminal Law- Abuse or Neglect- Penalties  
Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee  
Favorable**

---

**March 2, 2022**

**Dear Honorable Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstriecker and members of the committee:**

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies supports **SB 672 Criminal Law- Abuse or Neglect- Penalties.**

With many crimes there are levels of seriousness. When we look at animal cruelty or neglect this too is the case. There are levels of cruelty and neglect that do not rise to that of aggravated cruelty, which carries a more significant penalty, yet the animal may die or require euthanasia as determined by a licensed veterinarian. We believe there is a loophole in the law when it comes to penalties under Section 10-604 for such cases. In the current law the maximum penalty for the death of an animal is the same as that for an animal did not die or require euthanasia. This bill would simply allow a judge to sentence a more significant penalty if an animal died due to the acts of the defendant and combine that with a ban on ownership as part of sentencing and not just during the probation period.

We know the link between animal cruelty and human violence is direct and proven. This update will allow Maryland judges to consider tougher penalties and fines and a longer ban on ownership for the most egregious offenders of Annotated Code of Maryland Section 10-604.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland respectfully requests a favorable vote on **SB 672 Criminal Law- Abuse or Neglect- Penalties.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

***Patty Crankshaw-Quimby***

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control  
President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland