

HOUSE BILL 965

D3
HB 992/20 – JUD

2lr2907

By: **Delegate Kipke**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Civil Actions – Tortious Injury or Death of Pet – Compensatory Damages**
3 **(Buddy’s Law)**

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

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
10 Section 11–110
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

16 11–110.

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

18 (2) “Compensatory damages” means:

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (ii) “Pet” does not include livestock.

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

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2022.