

SENATE BILL 868

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4lr2333

By: **Senators Ready, Carozza, Corderman, Jackson, Rosapepe, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the cap on the compensatory damages for which a person who
4 tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet is liable; and generally relating to civil
5 liability for causing injury to or death of a pet.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 11–110
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

14 11–110.

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

16 (2) “Compensatory damages” means:

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) “Pet” does not include livestock.

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.