

HOUSE BILL 154

D3
HB 992/20 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

1lr1091
CF SB 292

By: **Delegates Bartlett, Crutchfield, Kipke, and Lehman**

Requested: October 23, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of altering the maximum amount of compensatory damages that may be
5 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 injuries to 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)

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.



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

(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]~~ **\$25,000**.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.