



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5832

LCO No. 4665

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR THE UNLAWFUL KILLING OR
INJURING OF COMPANION ANIMALS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) For the purposes of this section, "companion
2 animal" means a domesticated, warm-blooded animal that is normally
3 maintained in or near the household of its owner and is dependent on
4 a person for food, shelter and veterinary care, but does not include an
5 animal kept for farming or biomedical research practices.

6 (b) Any person who intentionally, recklessly or negligently kills or
7 injures, or causes or procures the death or injury of, a companion
8 animal, except as authorized by law, shall be liable to the owner of
9 such companion animal for (1) economic damages sustained by such
10 owner including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary care, the
11 fair monetary value of a deceased companion animal and burial
12 expenses for a deceased companion animal, (2) noneconomic damages
13 sustained by such owner including, but not limited to, damages for
14 mental and emotional suffering and damages for the loss of the
15 reasonably expected society, companionship, affection and services of
16 such companion animal, and (3) such other reasonable damages and

17 costs as the court may order.

18 Sec. 2. Section 22-351 of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

20 Any person who steals, confines or conceals any dog, or who, with
21 the intention of stealing such dog or concealing its identity or the
22 identity of its owner or with the intention of concealing the fact that
23 the dog is licensed, removes the collar or harness or tag from any
24 licensed dog, [or who unlawfully kills or injures any dog,] shall be
25 fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than
26 six months or both, and shall also be liable to the owner in a civil
27 action. Any person who unlawfully kills or injures any dog shall be
28 fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than
29 six months or both, and shall also be liable to the owner in a civil
30 action as provided in section 1 of this act. For a second offense, or for
31 an offense involving more than one dog, any such person shall be
32 fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than
33 one year nor more than three years or be both fined and imprisoned.

Statement of Purpose:

To permit an owner of a pet to bring a civil action against a person who has unlawfully killed or injured such pet and recover both economic and noneconomic damages.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.; REP. THOMPSON, 13th Dist.
REP. JARJURA, 74th Dist.; REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.
REP. NEWTON, 124th Dist.; REP. FELTMAN, 6th Dist.
REP. COCCO, 127th Dist.; SEN. SMITH, 14th Dist.
SEN. ANISKOVICH, 12th Dist.; SEN. FREEDMAN, 26th Dist.
SEN. PRAGUE, 19th Dist.; REP. TERCYAK, 26th Dist.
REP. FAHRBACH, 61st Dist.; SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.
REP. GOOGINS, 31st Dist.; REP. DYSON, 94th Dist.