



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 743

LCO No. 4968

04968SB00743ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT INCREASING OWNER OR KEEPER LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A DOG.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-357 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3 If any dog does any damage to either the body or property of any
4 person, the owner or keeper, or, if the owner or keeper is a minor, the
5 parent or guardian of such minor, shall be liable for such damage,
6 including, but not limited to, economic damages, except when such
7 damage has been occasioned to the body or property of a person who,
8 at the time such damage was sustained, was committing a trespass or
9 other tort, or was teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog. If a minor,
10 on whose behalf an action under this section is brought, was under
11 seven years of age at the time the damage was done, it shall be
12 presumed that such minor was not committing a trespass or other tort,
13 or teasing, tormenting or abusing such dog, and the burden of proof
14 thereof shall be upon the defendant in such action. For the purposes of
15 this section, "property" includes, but is not limited to, a companion
16 animal as defined in section 22-351a or domestic animal, and

17 "economic damages" means compensation determined by the trier of
18 fact for pecuniary losses, including, but not limited to, the cost of
19 reasonable and necessary medical or veterinary care, rehabilitative
20 services, custodial care and loss of earnings or earning capacity, the
21 fair monetary value of the companion animal or domestic animal and
22 burial expenses for the companion animal or domestic animal.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	22-357

Statement of Purpose:

To allow for the recovery of economic damages for damage caused by a dog and to provide compensation for injuries to a companion animal or domestic animal caused by another person's dog.

[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: SEN. RORABACK, 30th Dist.

S.B. 743