



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 743

January Session, 2009

* SB00743ENV 031909 *

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 Section 22-357 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 if such owner or
7 keeper is not a dog kennel licensed under section 22-342, a commercial
8 kennel licensed under section 22-344 or a grooming facility as defined
9 in section 22-327, except when such damage has been occasioned to the
10 body or property of a person who, at the time such damage was
11 sustained, was committing a trespass or other tort, or was teasing,
12 tormenting or abusing such dog. If a minor, on whose behalf an action
13 under this section is brought, was under seven years of age at the time
14 the damage was done, it shall be presumed that such minor was not
15 committing a trespass or other tort, or teasing, tormenting or abusing
16 such dog, and the burden of proof thereof shall be upon the defendant
17 in such action. For the purposes of this section, "property" includes,
18 but is not limited to, a companion animal as defined in section 22-351a
19 or domestic animal, and "economic damages" means compensation

20 determined by the trier of fact for pecuniary losses, including, but not
21 limited to, the cost of reasonable and necessary medical or veterinary
22 care, rehabilitative services, custodial care and loss of earnings or
23 earning capacity, the fair monetary value of the companion animal or
24 domestic animal and burial expenses for the companion animal or
25 domestic animal.

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

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*