



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 228

LCO No. 1500



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR THE UNLAWFUL KILLING OR INJURING OF A COMPANION ANIMAL AND REQUIRING A REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONCERNING THE TETHERING OF DOGS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 22-351a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (b) Any person who intentionally kills or injures a companion
5 animal, except in defense of such person or another person or as
6 otherwise authorized by law, shall be liable to the owner of such
7 companion animal for economic damages sustained by such owner
8 including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary care, the fair
9 monetary value of the companion animal and burial expenses for the
10 companion animal. Additionally, the court may award damages to the
11 owner of such companion animal for the loss of companionship of
12 such animal upon receipt of evidence concerning the length of
13 ownership of such animal, the use of such animal for companionship

14 purposes and the disposition or temperament of such companion
15 animal.

16 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2017, the
17 Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Chief Animal
18 Control Officer and in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
19 statutes, shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
20 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to domestic
21 animals concerning the adequacy of the provisions of section 22-350a
22 of the general statutes in protecting the health and welfare of tethered
23 or confined dogs in this state. Such report shall include, but not be
24 limited to, an analysis on the need to amend said section to include a
25 requirement that any tethered dog have access to adequate shelter, a
26 description of the components of any such adequate shelter
27 requirement and any recommendations concerning restrictions on the
28 duration for tethering or confining a dog in compliance with said
29 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	22-351a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To enable a court to award damages for the loss of companionship when a companion animal is intentionally killed or injured and to require a report on the adequacy of the state's dog tethering and confinement statute.

[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.]