

SENATE BILL 997

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0lr2751
CF HB 992

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2020

Assigned to: Rules

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 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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.



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

2 (ii) “Pet” does not include livestock.

3 (b) (1) A person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet while
4 acting individually or through an animal under the person’s ownership, direction, or control
5 is liable to the owner of the pet for compensatory damages.

6 (2) The damages awarded under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not
7 exceed [~~\$10,000~~] **\$25,000**.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2020.