

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 347 – *Injury to or Death of Pet – Damages*.

This bill establishes that a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet is liable to the owner of the pet for compensatory damages of not more than \$7,500.

House Bill 941, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 347.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Senate Bill No. 347

AN ACT concerning

Injury to or Death of Pet – Damages

FOR the purpose of establishing that a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet is liable to the owner of the pet for certain compensatory damages of not more than a certain amount; defining a certain term; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to civil liability for causing injury to or death of a pet under certain circumstances.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 11–110
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

11–110.

(a) (1) In this section[, “pet”] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “COMPENSATORY DAMAGES” MEANS:

(I) IN THE CASE OF THE DEATH OF A PET, THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE PET BEFORE DEATH AND THE REASONABLE AND NECESSARY COST OF VETERINARY CARE; AND

(II) IN THE CASE OF AN INJURY TO A PET, THE REASONABLE AND NECESSARY COST OF VETERINARY CARE.