

Chapter 413

(Senate Bill 143)

AN ACT concerning

Injury to or Death of Pet – Damages

FOR the purpose of providing that a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet while acting through an animal under the person's ownership is liable to the owner of the pet for certain compensatory damages; ~~repealing~~ *increasing* a certain cap on the compensatory damages for which a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet is liable; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to civil liability for causing injury to or death of a pet.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
 Section 11–110
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 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 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.

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

(ii) “Pet” does not include livestock.

(b) ~~¶(1)~~ A person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of a pet while acting individually or through an animal under the person's **OWNERSHIP**, direction, or control is liable to the owner of the pet for compensatory damages.

~~¶(2)~~ The damages awarded under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not exceed ~~\$7,500~~ **\$10,000.**~~¶~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2017.