

LarrySanders_FAV_SB0997

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Position: FAV

“Buddy’s Law” | SB 997 SUPPORT

Thursday March 12, 2020

Good afternoon,

I am here to speak with you in support of HB 992 “Buddy’s Law”. Buddy was Part of our family for 10 years, not just property. It is time that this thought be Changed. Buddy was a loving member of our family until one summer evening June 20, 2018, when he was shot with a BB gun and a few days later After surgery to repair his spline and intestine, Buddy crossed the Rainbow to Doggy Heaven.

The old law is inadequate as the amount to buy dogs that are not from Puppy Mills and to pay for what we hoped to be lifesaving medical treatment has Increased and the old \$10,000.00 limit regardless of what a jury would award is Just not enough. Buddy’s medical bills alone were in excess of \$15,000.00 and not to mention the cost to actually buy Buddy from a Breeder.

We have this case in civil court as we are here today and the case is set for May 21-22 here in Annapolis. It is time for people to pay for the abuse that they have inflicted upon a defenseless loving pet.

Times have changed and should our laws. By passing Buddy’s Law it cost the state nothing. By passing Buddy’s Law it helps to ensure that families are reimbursed for the monetary loss they have suffered. Money will never bring Buddy back to us, but I promised him that I would fight to bring Justice for the heinous act that took his life.

Respectfully,
Laurence Sanders & Family
8107 Ventnor Road
Pasadena, Maryland 21122

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BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Alcohol

Health

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 320
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658
800-492-7122 Ext. 3658
Fax 410-841-3586 · 301-858-3586
Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 997

Chairman and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 997 – *Civil Actions – Tortious Injury to a or Death of a Pet – Compensatory Damages (Buddy’s Law)*.

Senate Bill 997 would increase the maximum amount of compensatory damages that may be awarded to an owner of a pet from a person who tortuously causes injury or death of a pet to \$25,000.

Egan_UNF_SB997

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Position: UNF



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Nancy J. Egan, State Government Relations Counsel
Nancy.egan@APCIA.org Cell: 443-841-4174

Testimony of American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Senate Bill 997 Civil Actions - Tortious Injury to or Death of Pet - Compensatory Damages
(Buddy's Law)

March 12, 2020

Letter of Opposition

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) represents more than 1200 insurers and reinsurers that provide critically important insurance protection throughout the U.S. and world. In combination, our members write 60% of the U.S. property casualty market. APCIA members represent all sizes, structures, and regions—protecting families, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and across the globe. APCIA appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments in opposition to Senate Bill 997.

The bill increases, from \$10,000 to \$25,000, the maximum amount of compensatory damages that may be awarded to an owner of a pet from a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of the pet. Current law limits the “compensatory damages” recoverable to (1) the reasonable and necessary cost of veterinary care for a pet that was injured, and (2) in a case involving the death of a pet, the fair market value of the pet before death and the reasonable and necessary cost of veterinary care. When this law was first enacted, the amount recoverable was limited to \$2,500. This law was just revised in 2017, raising that limit from \$7,500 to \$10,000. Now, a mere 3 years later, this bill would raise this amount by an additional 250%. There is no evidence that any further increase is warranted at this time, either due to inflation or some other demonstrable increase in the cost of veterinary care or the fair market value of pets.

For these reasons, the APCIA urges the Committee to provide an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 997.