



POSITION PAPER 2021

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HB 1080

Criminal Law - Animal Cruelty - Petition for Costs for Care of Seized Animal

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland Association for Justice, Inc. (MAJ) represents over 1,200 trial attorneys throughout the state of Maryland. MAJ advocates for the preservation of the civil justice system, the protection of the rights of consumers and the education and professional development of its members.

MAJ respectfully offers an amendment to HB 1080 that would eliminate provisions providing for immunity from civil liability to petitioners when an animal owner alleges damages resulting from the care of the petitioner. Limiting the potential recovery of an animal owner from a bad acting petitioner does not encourage good behavior nor promote animal safety. MAJ asks that the sponsor and the committee consider the following amendment.

Proposed Amendment - HB 1080

Under Newly Added Section 10-615.1

Beginning on Page 6 of the Bill lines 14 - 17

Strike part (K) from the bill in its entirety:

14 ~~(K) A PETITIONER SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES~~
15 ~~ALLEGED BY AN OWNER OR A CUSTODIAN CONCERNING THE CARE PROVIDED BY THE~~
16 ~~PETITIONER, EXCEPT FOR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE~~
17 ~~RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF THE SEIZED ANIMAL.~~

MAJ respectfully urges a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT REPORT