

ASSEMBLY, No. 2613

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes civil action for damages for injury or death of certain animals in certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

4

7

28

33

39

41

42

44

1 pet dog or pet cat normally maintained in or near the household of
2 the owner and any service animal or guide dog or a search and
3 rescue dog.

4 The bill provides that the damages sought may include: the
5 monetary value of the animal, veterinary expenses incurred on
6 behalf of the animal, any other expenses incurred by the owner in
7 rectifying the effects of the cruelty, pain, and suffering of the
8 animal, and compensation for emotional distress suffered by the
9 owner. If the killed or injured animal was a service animal or guide
10 dog or a search and rescue dog, then the value of that animal may
11 include the cost of any specialized training the animal received.

12 The compensation for emotional distress, that is, the
13 noneconomic damages, is limited to compensation for the loss of
14 the reasonably expected society, companionship, love and affection
15 of the animal. The bill provides that these noneconomic damages
16 are capped at \$5000.

17 This bill also provides that the civil action for damages does not
18 apply to any governmental agency, or its employees, negligently
19 causing the death of an animal while acting on behalf of public
20 health or animal welfare. It also states that it should not be
21 construed to authorize any award of noneconomic damages in an
22 action for professional negligence against a licensed veterinarian.