

1 H.256

2 Introduced by Representatives Moran of Wardsboro, Lorber of Burlington and

3 Ram of Burlington

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Crimes; humane and proper treatment of animals; intentional killing

7 of pet; recovery of noneconomic damages

8 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to hold a person who intentionally

9 kills a pet liable to the deceased pet's owner for noneconomic damages for

10 emotional distress resulting from the loss of the reasonably expected

11 companionship, love, and affection of the pet.

12 An act relating to recovering noneconomic damages for an intentional
13 killing of a pet

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 356 is added to read:

16 § 356. INTENTIONAL KILLING OF PET; NONECONOMIC DAMAGES

17 (a) For purposes of this section, "pet" means any domesticated dog or cat

18 normally maintained in or near the household of its owner.

19 (b) A person who commits the crime of cruelty to animals, as described in

20 subdivision 352(1) of this title, by intentionally killing a pet belonging to

1 another person without first obtaining legal authority or consent of the owner
2 shall be liable to the deceased pet's owner for noneconomic damages for
3 emotional distress resulting from the loss of the reasonably expected
4 companionship, love, and affection of the pet.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.