

## HB 2186 -- Wrongful Injury or Death of a Companion Animal

Sponsor: Low (39)

This bill creates a cause of action in tort for any intentional, reckless, or negligent act or omission without justification resulting in injury or death to a companion animal in addition to any other remedies allowed by law. A companion animal includes any cat, dog, or other domesticated animal normally maintained in or near the household of the owner. The person causing the injury or death will be liable for damages including the fair monetary value of the deceased animal; the value of the loss of the reasonably expected companionship, comfort, protection, and services of the deceased animal; burial expenses; court costs; reasonable attorney fees; and any other reasonable damages resulting from the injury or death. Punitive damages cannot exceed \$2,500. The statute of limitations for recovery will be three years from the date of injury or death. Any damages for injuries sustained by the companion animal must be brought by a guardian ad litem or next friend appointed by the court with any damage award being placed into a trust for expenditures limited to the care for the companion animal.