

HB 1276 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2846
08/09

HOUSE BILL **1276**

AN ACT relative to the liability for death of a companion animal.

SPONSORS: Rep. Corcoran, Hills. 28; Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill allows for an economic award of up to \$5,000 in the case of certain intentional or negligent killing of a companion animal.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to the liability for death of a companion animal.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Liability for Death of a Companion Animal. Amend RSA 508 by inserting after
2 section 22 the following new section:

3 508:23 Liability for Death of a Companion Animal.

4 I. A person shall be liable for up to \$5,000 in non-economic damages to the owner of a
5 companion animal upon the death of a companion animal if such person causes the death of such
6 companion animal through intentional or negligent conduct. If the death was caused by a negligent
7 act, such act shall have occurred on the property of the owner of the companion animal while the
8 companion animal was under the control of its owner or other caretaker. Noneconomic damages
9 awarded pursuant to this section are limited to compensation for the loss of the reasonably expected
10 companionship, love, and affection of a pet.

11 II. The limitation in paragraph I shall not apply to causes of action for intentional emotional
12 distress or any other civil action other than the cause of action involving the direct and sole loss of a
13 companion animal.

14 III. This action shall not:

15 (a) Apply to a nonprofit entity or governmental agency, or its employees, negligently
16 causing the death of a pet while acting on behalf of public health or animal welfare.

17 (b) Authorize an award of noneconomic damages in an action for professional negligence
18 against a licensed veterinarian.

19 (c) Apply to the killing of any dog as authorized under other titles.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.