

PA13-223

SB0921

House	9966-9978	13
Judiciary	1858, 1859, 1981-1983, 2002-2004	8
Senate	4142-4144	3
		24

H – 1178

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 29
9742 – 10110**

We'd like to welcome you to the House and point out that it's a big room and there's always room for further discussion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 682?

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, on page 36, Calendar 682, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, Senate Bill Number 921, AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A DOG.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question before the Chamber is upon acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

Representative Fox, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This bill is not new to the Judiciary Committee. It's one that's been around I think for at least three or four years. And it has actually I believe passed out of the Senate each of those years as it was sponsored by former Senator Roraback as a constituent issue that came to his attention.

And what it does essentially is it takes the underlying rule which says that a owner of a dog is -- is liable for damage caused by that dog to either persons or property and it extends that to also include domesticated pets, such as dogs and cats.

And -- and the reason for that and the constituent concern that came up and was brought to our attention by former Senator Roraback is -- is, a woman came and testified who had a dog who was attacked by another dog and sustained serious injuries and incurred a number things, not the least of which were extensive veterinary bills.

And so the bill would include then those types of costs, including a potential disposing of a dog if a dog were killed, as well as the -- the value of a dog if the dog were -- were lost.

And also, Madam Speaker, it also includes other damage that can be caused by a dog to those who may live in some rural areas that would involve livestock type animals.

And I would urge passage of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Representative Fox.

Will you remark further on this bill?

Representative Scribner, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SCRIBNER (107TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of the bill before us and I thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for bringing it forward.

As he properly pointed out, the intent behind this and what was initiated that was actually a shared constituent of Senator -- former Senator Roraback and mine, and it was a very kind of traumatic circumstance that led this constituent to contact both of us, whose two young children that were walking their dog when it was viciously attacked by another neighborhood dog who was not contained on a leash, and the dog was killed.

And in -- and -- the most unfortunate thing of all was that the children witnessed it and this really

seeks to allow for there to be a liability on the part of the owner of the attacking dog. And I think the language is -- is very specific so it's not something to be concerned about that it would be abused in a -- in a further or -- or more expansive way.

So I -- I urge all of the members to support the bill before us.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Speaker.

Through you to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Please proceed.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much.

The -- the -- when the bill was being introduced it was said that this was in front of the Judiciary Committee for three or four years and we were wondering over here whether those were people years or dog years?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I -- I apologize for not being clear in my initial remarks. If -- if it were dog years I think there would only one or two of us who would actually have been here for the full duration of this bill, but no, it is people years. And the woman did come back each year and testify, and this is the year that hopefully we can get it through both Chambers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Tercyak? No.

All right.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much for response. Good bill, ought to pass then.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further?

Representative Noujaim, you have the floor, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Good evening to you.

Honestly this is a very sincere question, Madam Speaker, through you to Representative Fox.

Honestly, on Line 18 it specify the fair monetary value of the companion animals and how would this fair value be determined, because really to an owner a pet is very valuable, especially to children the pet is very valuable. So would be pay -- who would be able to put a value in a dog that is -- or a cat, or any animal that is really extremely precious to the owners, or especially to the children of that family. And that's what Line 18 states.

And I tried to read the balance of the bill to see if there is any other way to describe how this monetary value is going to be determined, but the piece of legislation before us does not specify it.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I agree that perhaps it can be difficult to determine the value of a -- of a pet. There's no consumer's index that you can necessarily go to, but

what you can do is demonstrate the, you know, the cost of the dog when you purchased the dog. You can look to other dogs. The value of similar type dogs and that's how it would be done I believe.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I do indeed -- I do need to support the bill. I will support the bill obviously, but I think there will be some issues raised if a -- something happened and there is an argument and there's misunderstanding between the two parties and they will not be able to rectify the differences.

I see that perhaps this will come back to us in the future to be -- to be updated accordingly, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further?

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A question, through you to the proponent of the -
- the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Please proceed.

REP. D'AMELIO:

Representative Fox, you know I understand the Representative's Scribner's example of what happened, but what -- what if -- how do assess blame on which animal was the perpetrator of the attack?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And through you.

While I would agree that there could be certain situations where it would be difficult to assess blame, I believe in the example that Representative Scribner gave and the one that we heard before the Judiciary Committee it was a clear example of one dog that had over matched another dog and the other dog really had -- had no opportunity to defend itself.

But that's something -- I mean, some of these questions are questions that would be up to the

insurance adjusters and the -- the claimants to make their -- to prove their cases and I imagine at times will be disputes, but that -- that's common now in terms of how these work.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

So -- so in other words, if -- if -- for -- for example if I was walking my dog and he was provoked by another dog and, you know, a fight I guess amongst the two of them broke out and my dog came out on top. The blame -- I wouldn't necessarily be blamed or be responsible for the bills of that other animal. The -- the blame would have to be accessed by a police officer or -- or through the courts?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, that's how I would view that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further?

Representative Candelora.

Will you remark further?

Representative Ziobron, you have the floor,
ma'am.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Through you, to the proponent, I have a question.
I'm reading the OLR report and it talks about Chief
Municipal Officer Agent can -- along with the affected
owner can estimate the amount of damage.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Who is the Chief Municipal Officer or agent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

I mean, I suppose it might be a dog warden or
somebody who has those responsibilities.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And my only other question is, through you, you know, I have a lot of experience in my district on farms and other things and I -- I don't know what a burial expense for poultry might be and I'm just wondering, through you, Madam Speaker, if that came up in the discussion or public hearing?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

I don't specifically recall that coming up.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further?

Representative Mushinsky, you have the floor.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the bill?

If not, will -- if not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House? Will members please take their seats; the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Whoops.

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote has been properly cast?

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, Senate Bill 921 after a rough debate

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the -- will the Clerk please call Calendar
413?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

On page 43, Calendar 413, favorable report of the
Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development,
Senate Bill -- Substitute House Bill 5600, AN ACT
CONCERNING REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, THE AUTHORITY OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE STATE AND THE STATE ELECTIONS
ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AND THE POSTING OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR VOTER IDENTIFICATION.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's
favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The -- the question before the Chamber is
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report
and passage of the bill.

Representative Jutila, you have the floor.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed.

Senate B has been adopted.

This time, Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE:

If there are no objections, I would put to move this on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Are there -- seeing no objections, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before calling for a vote on the first Consent Calendar, I have some additional items to add to that Consent Calendar. Appreciate the cooperation, the bipartisan cooperation of the membership in preparing this Consent Calendar. First item to add, Madam President, is on Calendar page 6, Calendar 349, House Bill Number 5513.

Next item, Madam President, Calendar page 9, Calendar 450, 450, Senate Bill Number 921. Next one, Madam President, is on Calendar page 16, Calendar 559, House Bill Number 6508. Next, Madam President, is on Calendar page 23, Calendar 614, House Bill Number 6587 and also on Calendar page 23, Calendar 616, substitute for House Bill Number 6678.

Moving, Madam President, to Calendar page 25, Calendar 629, substitute for House Bill Number 6662. And, Madam President, Calendar page 28, Calendar 650, substitute for House Bill Number 6659. And on

Calendar page 29, Calendar 653, substitute for House Bill Number 6699. And, finally, Madam President, on Calendar page 31, Calendar 664, substitute for House Bill Number 6689.

I would like to add those items to our Consent Calendar and, and now call for a, I would ask the Clerk to list all of the items on the Consent Calendar and then proceed to a vote on that first Consent Calendar.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Today's first Consent Calendar, on page 5, Calendar 341, House Bill 6364; Calendar 343, House Bill 5425; Calendar 346, House Bill 6322; Calendar 347, House Bill 6547; and on page 6, Calendar 349, House Bill 5513; page 9, Calendar 450, Senate Bill 921; on page 13, Calendar 506, House Bill 6491; Calendar 515, House Bill 6235.

On page 14, Calendar 524, House Bill 6380; on page 16, Calendar 559, House Bill 6508; page 17, Calendar 563, House Bill 5617; Calendar 569, House Bill 6485; and on page 19, Calendar 588, House Bill 6549; on page 23, Calendar 614, House Bill 6587; Calendar 616, House Bill 6678; page 25, Calendar 629, House Bill 6662; on page 26, Calendar 633, House Bill 6576; and on page 27, Calendar 640, House Bill 6550; on page 28, Calendar 650, House Bill 6659.

And on Page 29, Calendar 653, House Bill 6699; Calendar 655, House Bill 6339; page 31, Calendar 664, House Bill 6689; Calendar 665, House Bill 6355; page 34, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 911; and on page 40, Calendar 514, House Bill 5725.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the first Consent Calendar. And the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call in the Senate on the first Consent Calendar of the day.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, thank you. Good. There we go.

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar,

Total Number Voting 34

Necessary for Adoption 18

Those voting Yea 34

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY
PART 6
1718 - 2061**

2013

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hac/gbr JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 13, 2013
1:00 P.M.

avoiding the last fee that's what I'm trying to think about, but I agree, I -- I'm not looking to make it harder on businesses.

Thank you.

SECRETARY MERRILL: Totally understood.

We've run into this this year. We had a plan where we would -- you know, even -- even as you say chasing them for it costs money -- because we had a plan this year to mail to all the businesses that had not been filing annual reports and I think the cost was -- what -- \$250,000 or something to do the mailing and then one of the rescissions we lost the money, so we can't really even do that.

So it is -- it's a thorny problem, but we're looking to solve it in a way that doesn't cost money and doesn't lose us too much revenue. So hopefully this is a bit of a middle ground and we'll probably come back with something better seeing how this works.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

And, Sir, we appreciate your testimony.

SETH KLASKIN: Thank you.

SECRETARY MERRILL: Thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Sue Giacalone is next.

(HB 6585) SB 921.
SB 920 (HB 6479)

SUE GIACOLONE: Good afternoon, Senator Coleman and members of the Judiciary Committee.

For the record, my name is Susan Giacalone. I'm here on behalf of the Insurance Association of Connecticut. I've submitted testimony on several bills, so I'm going to try to summarize

them very quickly in the short -- three short minutes that I have.

The first bill -- we have one that we're supporting and three we're opposing, so I'll start with the one we support, which is House Bill 5585, AN ACT CONCERNING EVIDENCE IN COST. We appreciate the committee raising this bill. This bill simply seeks to do two things. It seeks to codify the ability to get any kind of medical example.

(HB 6585)

Right now that's something that is granted to defendants in -- in personal injury cases. Unfortunately the way our system is working they get bogged down and make it very complicated to get, if ever, and this is just trying to ease the process on both sides so the -- those cases don't get bogged down and can move forward.

The other piece just seeks to clarify that if there are deposition -- costs associated with a deposition that they're only recoverable costs if they're actually used in a case proceeding. You can't recover them if you don't actually use them in -- in the case in chief. So we urge your support of 5585.

On the two bills -- the three bills that we're filed testimony in opposition to is Senate Bill 921, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY DOGS. Strict liability already if your dog causes damage this is enumerating what damage you might get, which is already current practice and we just don't think it's a good precedent to start enumerating and statute the damages that you can get for one type of case, because now you're going to have to do it for all other kinds of cases.

The other Senate Bill 920, (inaudible) statute

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1:00 P.M.

REP. FOX III: Yeah, that (inaudible).

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: You have a bill that's coming up
I think --

REP. FOX III: Which will be next week, it'll
probably (inaudible) --

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Right, which is going to force
mandatory 10 percent interest on everybody,
which I don't (inaudible) -- we don't support.

REP. FOX III: Well, thank you, Raphe.

Senator Kissel, anything else? Okay.

Thank you.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Okay. Thank you very much.

REP. FOX III: You know, I'm -- I'm going to the
handwritten portion so please bear with me.

Charlene --

CHARLENE DUTKA: Dutka.

REP. FOX III: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHARLENE DUTKA: Good afternoon, Representative Fox
and committee members.

I've been here before. I'm here in regard --
my name is Charlene Dutka. I live in Goshen
and I'm here concerning Bill Number 921, AN ACT
CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A
DOG.

Rather than read the entire statement I'll just
summarize what occurred. On May of 2008 I was
walking my dog and he was viciously attacked by
another dog. He received extensive injuries.

His vet bills were nearly \$20,000.

What we found during that time after calling the homeowners insurance agent is that in Connecticut there are no laws that hold irresponsible dog owners financially responsible for other dog's injuries. The agent actually told us we should have let Max die, because his value was similar to that of a car. He's considered personal property.

Fortunately, at that time I was working -- from the attack I suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, losing my job eventually. So our family we were really fortunate we could pay his bills. He went for another two and a half years, although he was missing a leg, a shoulder, he had metal plates in his jaw, his ear was reattached, he was an 80-pound black lab.

His sister is still alive. His little sister Murphy is going to be turning 17 and we have a two-year old lab. If either one of those dogs were attacked in such a way at this time we would have to let them die, because we would not be able to afford the veterinarian expenses.

So you can read the testimony. I know I sat here before and explained in detail everything that happened.

REP. FOX III: And I do remember -- I'm sure Senator Kissel remembers.

CHARLENE DUTKA: I can -- I -- so rather than read it, I know that you understand the details and it just seems so important to me that, you know, our pets are part of our families for many of us and -- and to know that we would have to let our dogs die because we wouldn't be

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1:00 P.M.

able to afford their medical expenses if they were attacked by another dog because the owner wasn't responsible that I think this bill is very important and it should be passed.

REP. FOX III: Well, thank you and -- and I do remember that there was a Senator who was pushing this bill previously and it has been taken up by his successor and it's one that we support as a committee in the past and --

CHARLENE DUTKA: Yeah, I understand that. I just saw --

REP. FOX III: -- and we'll see --

CHARLENE DUTKA: -- every year I'll just be here (inaudible).

REP. FOX III: Well, hopefully maybe you can come for something else at some point.

CHARLENE DUTKA: (Inaudible) that would be just wonderful.

REP. FOX III: Okay.

CHARLENE DUTKA: But until that time I'll -- I'll just continue to support this bill because I think it's really important.

REP. FOX III: Well -- well, thank you and thanks for --

CHARLENE DUTKA: Okay.

REP. FOX III: -- coming today.

CHARLENE DUTKA: Thank you. Have a wonderful evening.

REP. FOX III: Next is Joseph Stafford.

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LINE 5

March 13, 2013

Dear Honorable Committee,

My name is Charlene Dutka, I am a resident of Goshen CT. Thank you for allowing me to speak concerning S.B. No. 921 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A DOG. The message of this bill is personal and important to me. Five years ago the content of this bill was submitted based upon a request I submitted.

On May 17, 2008 I was walking my 80 pound black lab, Maxx, he was on a leash. My newly adopted 5 year old son was accompanying us on our walk. A neighbor's newly purchased dog was let out of his house when he went to door, as he saw us walking by.

To my horror, the dog stood 80 feet away ready to attack us. My son Manty was ready to run, my first thought was to protect my son, and have him stand behind me. This was not an easy task as my son did not speak English and I did not speak Lithuanian. Finally my son was safe behind me, as I attempted to get my 11 year old devoted Maxx safely behind me, the other dog tore Maxx from his collar, and I was holding an empty leash.

The remainder of the story is long and painful; I will only include a small part of what happened. Through much interaction I was able to get Manty to run home to get help from his older brothers. This was done while Maxx was being dragged and ripped apart by the other dog.

Maxx was dragged for 120 feet into a ravine, my oldest son jumped into the ravine filled with water, my next to oldest son was there to help. The other dog retreated, thinking Maxx was dead. My oldest sons carried Maxx up the hill, which is the first thing I remember after telling them not to jump into the ravine.

Shock and trauma are real, and recently I settled out of court with the home owner's insurance company because I suffered from the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I didn't go to trial because the trial date was pushed up, and I would really prefer not to relive the day Maxx was attacked.

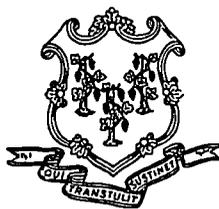
Maxx, the special creature who consumed my heart and soul is the reason I am here today.

You see the laws in Connecticut do not hold irresponsible dog owners financially responsible for injuries to another person's animal. The representative for the home owner's insurance company actually told me I should have let Maxx die because he had no value; he depreciated much like a car would. You see when Maxx was attacked my family was fortunate we could afford to pay for Maxx's nearly \$20,000 in medical bills. Maxx lived for another 2 ½ years after this incident, dying on Christmas morning 2011.

Due to PTSD I lost my job in 2009. If this type of attack occurred today, to Murphy, Maxx's litter sister, or Judy our two year old black lab, I would have to let them die because we could not afford to pay for medical attention. That is just wrong! Please pass Maxx's bill this year in honor of the additional 2 ½ years we were able to share with Maxx. Maxx continued to be my shadow for that time, albeit one less leg, one less shoulder, metal plates in his jaw, a reattached ear, other injuries and a heart bigger than the moon.

Sincerely,

Charlene Dutka
81 Brynmoor Court
Goshen CT 06756
chardu@optonline.net



State of Connecticut

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RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 921, An Act Concerning Liability For Damage Caused By A Dog
Judiciary Committee - March 13, 2013

Good afternoon, Chairmen Coleman and Fox, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 921, AAC LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A DOG.

As many of you may remember, this bill has been before this committee in prior sessions, most recently in the 2012 session when it passed out of committee on a unanimous vote. The issue was brought to the attention of then-State Senator Roraback by a constituent from Goshen who incurred substantial costs for veterinary care when her dog was attacked by another dog. This legislation is intended to 'clarify that the owner or keeper of a dog that does damage to the companion animal of another is liable for the expense of veterinary care, the fair monetary value of the companion animal and the burial expenses for the companion animal, and (2) clarify the calculation of damages for damage done by a dog to domestic animals and poultry.'

I urge you to vote favorably on this bill and again, I appreciate your consideration.

STATEMENT
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

Judiciary Committee

March 13, 2013

SB 921, An Act Concerning The Liability For Damage Caused By A Dog

The Insurance Association of Connecticut is opposed to SB 921, An Act Concerning The Liability For Damage Caused By A Dog, as the bill is unnecessary.

SB 921 seeks to include in C.G.S. Sec 22-357, Connecticut's strict liability statute for damage caused by a dog, a delineation of damages collectible for damage done to a dog by another dog.

Connecticut's strict liability statute is plainly clear that an owner of a dog is liable for all damages caused by that dog to any person or property. One's dog is covered as property. If we begin enumerating the types of items covered pursuant to the statute, the statute will likely have to be amended to provide the same for any and all potential damaged subjects of the statute. It is common practice that the measure of compensable damages for damages caused by one's dog to another include veterinary care, the fair monetary value of the dog, and reasonable burial expenses.

As such, the IAC urges your rejection of SB 921 as it is unnecessary.