



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1199

veterinarian malpractice actions; damages

Purpose

Allows a person to receive specified damages in a successful malpractice action against a veterinarian for the death of the person's domesticated dog or cat.

Background

A veterinarian commits *malpractice* when they conduct treatment in a manner contrary to accepted practices and with injurious results ([A.R.S. § 32-2201](#)). If the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board (Board) receives information indicating that a veterinarian may have engaged in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, the Board may appoint one or more investigative committees to interview witnesses, gather evidence and otherwise investigate allegations. If it appears, after investigation, that the information may be true, the Board may issue a notice of formal hearing or request an informal interview with the veterinarian. The Board may impose a temporary suspension or restriction of the veterinarian's license to practice in addition to a civil penalty no more than \$1,000 ([A.R.S. §§ 32-2234 & 32-2237](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Allows a person, if the person prevails in a malpractice action against a veterinarian, to receive the following damages for the death of the person's domesticated dog or cat:
 - a) the fair market value of the domesticated dog or cat;
 - b) the cost of all medical expenses for the domesticated dog or cat resulting from the malpractice activity; and
 - c) up to \$10,000 for the person's future loss of companionship.
2. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research
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RA/KP/slp