
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1261 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SMITH, FERLO, COSTA, FONTANA, BREWSTER,
VULAKOVICH, SOLOBAY, WILEY, VOGEL, HUTCHINSON, ARGALL,
TEPLITZ, BOSCOLA, STACK, ALLOWAY, WHITE, KASUNIC, YUDICHAK,
BLAKE, LEACH, WASHINGTON, YAW, FARNESE, MENSCH, WOZNIAK,
SCHWANK AND WILLIAMS, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
2 entitled, as amended, "An act relating to dogs, regulating
3 the keeping of dogs; providing for the licensing of dogs and
4 kennels; providing for the protection of dogs and the
5 detention and destruction of dogs in certain cases;
6 regulating the sale and transportation of dogs; declaring
7 dogs to be personal property and the subject of theft;
8 providing for the abandonment of animals; providing for the
9 assessment of damages done to animals; providing for payment
10 of damages by the Commonwealth in certain cases and the
11 liability of the owner or keeper of dogs for such damages;
12 imposing powers and duties on certain State and local
13 officers and employees; providing penalties; and creating a
14 Dog Law Restricted Account," further providing for dogs used
15 for law enforcement.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. Section 602(b) of the act of December 7, 1982
19 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, amended October 9, 2008
20 (P.L.1450, No.119), is amended to read:

21 Section 602. Dogs used for law enforcement.

22 * * *

23 (b) Illegal to torture certain dogs.--It shall be unlawful

1 for any person to willfully or maliciously torture, mutilate,
2 injure, disable, poison or kill any dog, including any search
3 and rescue or detection dog, used by any municipal, county or
4 State police or sheriff's department or agency, fire department
5 or agency or handler under the supervision of such department or
6 agency, in the performance of the functions or duties of the
7 department or agency or to commit any of the stated acts in the
8 course of interfering with any such dog used by the department
9 or agency or any member or supervised handler thereof in the
10 performance of any of the functions or duties of the department
11 or agency or of such officer or member or supervised handler.
12 Any person who violates any of the provisions of this subsection
13 commits a felony of the [third] second degree.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.