

SENATE BILL 981

By Campbell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2 and Title 66, relative to animals that are abandoned in vacated rental property.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 66, Chapter 7, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A landlord or the landlord's designee shall inspect the landlord's residential property for the presence of abandoned animals before permitting a subsequent tenant to take occupancy of the residential property.

(b) If, during an inspection conducted under subsection (a), a landlord or designee discovers an abandoned animal on the residential property, then the landlord or designee shall notify the county or municipal animal shelter, dog pound, or animal control agency; private humane society; state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency; or combination thereof, that temporarily houses stray, unwanted, or injured animals of the presence of each abandoned animal.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 66, Chapter 28, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A landlord or the landlord's designee shall inspect the landlord's residential property for the presence of abandoned animals before permitting a subsequent tenant to take occupancy of the residential property.

(b) If, during an inspection conducted under subsection (a), a landlord or designee discovers an abandoned animal on the residential property, then the landlord or designee shall notify the county or municipal animal shelter, dog pound, or animal

control agency; private humane society; state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency; or combination thereof, that temporarily houses stray, unwanted, or injured animals of the presence of each abandoned animal.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.