
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2007 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, ROZZI, W. KELLER, SCHREIBER, THOMAS,
SCHLOSSBERG, BIZZARRO, D. COSTA, SAINATO, MILLARD,
YOUNGBLOOD, V. BROWN, READSHAW, WATSON, O'BRIEN, GERGELY,
DeLUCA, HARHAI, COHEN, MOUL, FARINA, BRADFORD, GIBBONS AND
PASHINSKI, APRIL 21, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 21, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic
2 Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in
3 riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, further
4 providing for cruelty to animals; and, in child protective
5 services, further providing for persons required to report
6 suspected child abuse.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 5511(q) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
11 adding a subsection to read:

12 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

13 * * *

14 (c.1) Mandatory reporting.--If a social services employee
15 forms a reasonable suspicion that an animal is the victim of
16 cruelty, he shall report the suspicion to an agent of a society
17 or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals
18 incorporated under the laws of this Commonwealth.

1 * * *

2 (q) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
3 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
4 subsection:

5 "Animal fighting." Fighting or baiting any bull, bear, dog,
6 cock or other creature.

7 "Animal fighting paraphernalia." Any device, implement,
8 object or drug used or intended to be used for animal fighting,
9 to train an animal for animal fighting or in furtherance of
10 animal fighting. In determining whether an object is animal
11 fighting paraphernalia, a court or other authority should
12 consider statements by an owner or by anyone in control of the
13 object concerning its use, any prior convictions under Federal
14 or State law relating to animal fighting, the proximity of the
15 object in time and space to the direct violation of this
16 section, direct or circumstantial evidence of the intent of the
17 accused to deliver the object to persons whom he or she knows or
18 should reasonably know intends to use the object to facilitate a
19 violation of this section, oral or written instructions provided
20 with or in the vicinity of the object concerning its use,
21 descriptive materials accompanying the object which explain or
22 depict its use and all other logically relevant factors.

23 "Audibly impaired." The inability to hear air conduction
24 thresholds at an average of 40 decibels or greater in the better
25 ear.

26 "Blind." Having a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the
27 better eye with correction or having a limitation of the field
28 of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field
29 subtends an angular distance not greater than 20 degrees.

30 "Conveyance." A truck, tractor, trailer or semitrailer, or

1 any combination of these, propelled or drawn by mechanical
2 power.

3 "Deaf." Totally impaired hearing or hearing with or without
4 amplification which is so seriously impaired that the primary
5 means of receiving spoken language is through other sensory
6 input, including, but not limited to, lip reading, sign
7 language, finger spelling or reading.

8 "Domestic animal." Any dog, cat, equine animal, bovine
9 animal, sheep, goat or porcine animal.

10 "Domestic fowl." Any avis raised for food, hobby or sport.

11 "Equine animal." Any member of the Equidae family, which
12 includes horses, asses, mules, ponies and zebras.

13 "Normal agricultural operation." Normal activities,
14 practices and procedures that farmers adopt, use or engage in
15 year after year in the production and preparation for market of
16 poultry, livestock and their products in the production and
17 harvesting of agricultural, agronomic, horticultural,
18 silvicultural and aquicultural crops and commodities.

19 "Physically limited." Having limited ambulation, including,
20 but not limited to, a temporary or permanent impairment or
21 condition that causes an individual to use a wheelchair or walk
22 with difficulty or insecurity, affects sight or hearing to the
23 extent that an individual is insecure or exposed to danger,
24 causes faulty coordination or reduces mobility, flexibility,
25 coordination or perceptiveness.

26 "Social services employee." Any of the following providing
27 human services:

28 (1) An employee of the Commonwealth or a political
29 subdivision of the Commonwealth.

30 (2) An employee providing human services under contract

1 to the Commonwealth or a political subdivision of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Zoo animal." Any member of the class of mammalia, aves,
4 amphibia or reptilia which is kept in a confined area by a
5 public body or private individual for purposes of observation by
6 the general public.

7 Section 2. Section 6311(a) of Title 23 is amended by adding
8 a paragraph to read:

9 § 6311. Persons required to report suspected child abuse.

10 (a) Mandated reporters.--The following adults shall make a
11 report of suspected child abuse, subject to subsection (b), if
12 the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a
13 victim of child abuse:

14 * * *

15 (17) An animal control officer or humane society police
16 officer.

17 * * *

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.