
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 57 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FONTANA AND RAFFERTY, APRIL 23, 2015

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, APRIL 23, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the
2 issue of the most efficient and effective manner to provide
3 information to the residents of this Commonwealth that
4 clearly and concisely outlines the animal control
5 responsibilities of State and local agencies and any
6 nonprofit organizations.

7 WHEREAS, Residents throughout this Commonwealth face a
8 variety of issues involving domestic and wild animals on a daily
9 basis; and

10 WHEREAS, These issues can range widely from the discovery of
11 a lost dog to a suspected case of animal cruelty or a suspected
12 case of rabies in an animal to the presence of wild animals in
13 attics, basements and homes; and

14 WHEREAS, While these situations are often not emergencies
15 that rise to the proper level of a 911 call, they are still of
16 significant concern to residents; and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians often find it difficult to ascertain
18 whom to call due to the several State and local regulatory and
19 law enforcement agencies assigned to enforce Pennsylvania's
20 separate animal-related laws and regulations; and

1 WHEREAS, Officials within Pennsylvania's animal-related
2 agencies and nonprofit organizations attest to the frustration
3 borne by residents who often are referred numerous times and
4 make numerous telephone calls before finding the solution to
5 their respective problems; and

6 WHEREAS, In attempting to solve these issues, Pennsylvania
7 residents want to contact the correct agency immediately in the
8 interest of public safety and in the animals' best interests;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The current lack of clear information as to whom to
11 call not only frustrates Pennsylvanians but unnecessarily causes
12 delays in addressing their situations; and

13 WHEREAS, In some situations, this lack of information results
14 in the problem not being addressed; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
16 Commission to study the issue of the most efficient and
17 effective manner to provide information to the residents of this
18 Commonwealth that clearly and concisely outlines the animal
19 control responsibilities of State and local agencies and any
20 nonprofit organizations; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the study to be conducted by the Joint State
22 Government Commission include a report of the following:

23 (1) The current animal control statutes and regulations
24 in this Commonwealth and whether those statutes and
25 regulations provide the public with information on the animal
26 control responsibilities of the agencies and organizations.

27 (2) The current animal control statutes and regulations
28 in other states that provide clear and concise information on
29 the animal control responsibilities of State and local
30 agencies and any nonprofit organizations;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission prepare
3 a final report to include findings and recommendations to
4 implement necessary changes in State statutes, practices,
5 policies and procedures to efficiently and effectively provide
6 the public with clear and concise information on the animal
7 control responsibilities of State and local agencies and
8 nonprofit organizations and necessary contact information; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the final report include an analysis of the
11 potential effectiveness and efficiency of establishing the
12 following:

13 (1) A regional or countywide telephone number that would
14 accept all animal control telephone calls and direct them to
15 the appropriate animal control agency or organization.

16 (2) A publicly accessible Internet website that can
17 either direct the public to or inform the public of the
18 appropriate animal control agency or organization;

19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
21 the report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations
22 no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution.