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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 339 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, HUGHES, FONTANA, FARNESE, BROWNE,  
DINNIMAN, SMITH, TEPLITZ, ALLOWAY, RAFFERTY AND VULAKOVICH,  
JANUARY 28, 2015

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 28, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in offenses against public order and  
3 decency, further providing for the offense of cruelty to  
4 animals.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 5511(c) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 \* \* \*

11 (c) Cruelty to animals.--

12 (1) A person commits an offense if he wantonly or  
13 cruelly illtreats, overloads, beats, otherwise abuses any  
14 animal, or neglects any animal as to which he has a duty of  
15 care, whether belonging to himself or otherwise, or abandons  
16 any animal, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance,  
17 drink, shelter or veterinary care, or access to clean and  
18 sanitary shelter which will protect the animal against

1 inclement weather and preserve the animal's body heat and  
2 keep it dry.

3 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), a  
4 person convicted of violating paragraph (1) commits a  
5 summary offense.

6 (ii) A person convicted of violating paragraph (1)  
7 commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and for a  
8 second or subsequent time of violating paragraph (1)  
9 commits a misdemeanor of the [third] second degree if all  
10 of the following occurred:

11 (A) The action or omission for which the person  
12 was convicted [for a subsequent time] was performed  
13 on a dog or cat.

14 (B) The dog or cat was seriously injured,  
15 suffered severe physical distress or was placed at  
16 imminent risk of serious physical harm as the result  
17 of the person's action or omission.

18 (3) This subsection shall not apply to activity  
19 undertaken in normal agricultural operation.

20 \* \* \*

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