
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 268 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY M. K. KELLER, CAUSER, BAKER, BLOOM, D. COSTA,
DOWLING, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GILLESPIE, A. HARRIS, PHILLIPS-
HILL, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, W. KELLER, MARSHALL, MCGINNIS,
MILLARD, MILNE, NEILSON, O'NEILL, PICKETT, PYLE, M. QUINN,
ROE, ROTHMAN, SIMMONS, STEPHENS, TAYLOR, THOMAS, WARD, WATSON
AND SAINATO, JANUARY 31, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 31, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and
3 related offenses, further providing for the offense of
4 cruelty to animals.

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

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

10 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

11 * * *

12 (p.1) Immunity.--A licensed doctor of veterinary medicine,
13 certified veterinary technician or veterinary assistant who
14 reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a
15 suspected incident of animal cruelty to the proper authority
16 shall be immune from liability in a civil action brought against
17 the licensed doctor of veterinary medicine, certified veterinary

1 technician or veterinary assistant for reporting the incident.

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 * * *

6 "Certified veterinary technician." As defined in section
7 3(13) of the act of December 27, 1974 (P.L.995, No.326), known
8 as the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

9 * * *

10 "Licensed doctor of veterinary medicine." As defined in
11 section 3(8) of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

12 * * *

13 "Veterinary assistant." As defined in section 3(14) of the
14 Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

15 * * *

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