
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1375 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, COSTA, RAFFERTY AND SCHWANK,
OCTOBER 12, 2016

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 12, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
2 entitled, as amended, "An act relating to dogs, regulating
3 the keeping of dogs; providing for the licensing of dogs and
4 kennels; providing for the protection of dogs and the
5 detention and destruction of dogs in certain cases;
6 regulating the sale and transportation of dogs; declaring
7 dogs to be personal property and the subject of theft;
8 providing for the abandonment of animals; providing for the
9 assessment of damages done to animals; providing for payment
10 of damages by the Commonwealth in certain cases and the
11 liability of the owner or keeper of dogs for such damages;
12 imposing powers and duties on certain State and local
13 officers and employees; providing penalties; and creating a
14 Dog Law Restricted Account," establishing the Spay and Neuter
15 Statewide Task Force and providing for membership and duties
16 of the task force.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. The act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
20 known as the Dog Law, is amended by adding an article to read:

21 ARTICLE IX-B

22 SPAY AND NEUTER STATEWIDE TASK FORCE

23 Section 901-B. Definitions.

24 The following words and phrases when used in this article
25 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Neuter." A procedure to render a male dog or cat unable to
3 reproduce.

4 "Spay." A procedure to render a female dog or cat unable to
5 reproduce.

6 "Task force." The Spay and Neuter Statewide Task Force
7 established under section 902-B.

8 Section 902-B. Establishment.

9 The Spay and Neuter Statewide Task Force is established
10 within the department to reduce animal shelter overpopulation
11 and cat and dog euthanasia.

12 Section 903-B. Members.

13 (a) Composition.--The task force shall consist of the
14 following members, who shall be residents of this Commonwealth:

15 (1) The secretary or a designee, who shall act as
16 chairperson.

17 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the President
18 pro tempore of the Senate.

19 (3) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
20 Leader of the Senate.

21 (4) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
22 by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

23 (5) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
24 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

25 (6) The following members appointed by the Governor:

26 (i) Two representatives from two separate animal
27 advocacy groups operating in Pennsylvania.

28 (ii) One representative from the Pennsylvania
29 Veterinary Medical Association.

30 (iii) One representative from an organization that

1 advocates on behalf of Pennsylvania counties.

2 (iv) One representative from an animal rescue
3 organization operating in Pennsylvania.

4 (v) One representative from a spay and neuter
5 organization operating in Pennsylvania.

6 (b) Compensation.--Members of the task force shall not
7 receive compensation, except for reimbursements necessary for
8 travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of
9 official duties.

10 (c) Open meetings.--All meetings of the task force shall be
11 open to the public.

12 Section 904-B. Duties of the task force.

13 The task force shall:

14 (1) collect and review data on the number of spay or
15 neuter services performed each year in this Commonwealth and
16 any unmet need for the services;

17 (2) review ongoing successful local spay and neuter
18 programs in this Commonwealth;

19 (3) review spay and neuter programs in other states and
20 identify best practices;

21 (4) review and make recommendations regarding the most
22 appropriate funding mechanism for a spay and neuter fund; and

23 (5) make recommendations regarding the establishment of
24 a spay and neuter fund that best meets the needs of the
25 Commonwealth.

26 Section 905-B. Report.

27 The task force shall annually issue a report of its
28 activities and recommendations under section 904-B to all of the
29 following:

30 (1) The Governor.

1 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

2 (3) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

3 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the Senate.

5 (5) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

6 (6) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

7 (7) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the House of
9 Representatives.

10 (8) The Secretary of Agriculture.

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