
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 35 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, ALLOWAY, BARTOLOTTA, MCGARRIGLE, BROWNE,
FARNESE, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, COSTA, FOLMER, ARGALL,
RESCHENTHALER, LANGERHOLC, WARD, MENSCH, BOSCOLA, STEFANO,
BLAKE AND GREENLEAF, MARCH 10, 2017

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 animal abuse prevention task force to conduct a thorough and
3 comprehensive analysis of laws for the prevention of animal
4 cruelty and abuse and report to the Senate its findings and
5 recommendations.

6 WHEREAS, According to the Humane Society of the United
7 States, intentional cruelty to animals is strongly correlated
8 with other crimes, including violence against people; and

9 WHEREAS, On average, 1,920 cases of animal abuse and cruelty
10 are reported each year; and

11 WHEREAS, The Senate recognizes the value of studying this
12 vital issue; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
14 Commission to establish an animal abuse prevention task force of
15 20 members; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore of the Senate
17 appoint two members to the animal abuse prevention task force
18 and the Minority Leader of the Senate appoint two members to the

1 animal abuse prevention task force; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the membership of the animal abuse prevention
3 task force be balanced so that it encompasses a wide range of
4 backgrounds and viewpoints; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the animal abuse prevention task force contain
6 at least one of each of the following individuals:

7 (1) a representative from the Governor's Policy Office
8 or designee;

9 (2) a representative from the Department of Agriculture
10 or designee;

11 (3) a dog warden;

12 (4) an attorney;

13 (5) a district attorney;

14 (6) a representative from a law enforcement agency;

15 (7) a veterinarian;

16 (8) a representative from the Humane Society of the
17 United States;

18 (9) a representative from an animal rescue organization;

19 and

20 (10) an owner of a large kennel;

21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
23 with the animal abuse prevention task force, conduct a thorough
24 and comprehensive analysis of laws throughout the nation for the
25 prevention of animal cruelty and abuse; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
27 with the animal abuse prevention task force, identify the best
28 preventive practices and develop recommendations; and be it
29 further

30 RESOLVED, That the final report include recommendations to

1 implement necessary changes in State statutes, practices,
2 policies and procedures relating to animal cruelty and abuse;
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
5 to the Senate its findings and recommendations no later than 18
6 months from the adoption of this resolution.