

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 625 Session of  
2001

INTRODUCED BY ROHRER, BASTIAN, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, CLARK,  
CLYMER, EGOLF, GEIST, HERSHEY, HESS, KENNEY, LEH, METCALFE,  
PISTELLA, SATHER, SAYLOR, SHANER, STABACK, STERN, WASHINGTON,  
WILT AND YEWIC, FEBRUARY 12, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
FEBRUARY 12, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 12, 1994 (P.L.956, No.135),  
2 entitled "An act providing for humane society police  
3 officers' appointment, qualifications, authority and  
4 discipline; further providing for search warrants; and  
5 conferring powers and duties on the Department of  
6 Agriculture," providing for prohibitions and penalties.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of December 12, 1994 (P.L.956, No.135),  
10 known as the Humane Society Police Officer Enforcement Act, is  
11 amended by adding sections to read:

12 Section 7.1. Prohibitions.

13 (a) Individuals.--An individual may not pretend to hold the  
14 position of humane society police officer.

15 (b) Organizations.--A society or association for the  
16 prevention of cruelty to animals may not knowingly permit an  
17 individual to violate subsection (a).

18 Section 7.2. Penalties.

1     (a) Criminal.--

2             (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), a person  
3     who violates this act commits a summary offense and shall,  
4     upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$300 or to  
5     imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

6             (2) A person who, after being sentenced on two occasions  
7     under paragraph (1), violates a provision of this act other  
8     than section 7.1(a) within one year of the first sentencing  
9     commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon  
10    conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$2,500 or to  
11    imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

12            (3) An individual who violates section 7.1(a) commits a  
13    misdemeanor of the second degree and shall, upon conviction,  
14    be sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000 or to imprisonment for  
15    not more than two years, or both, and shall be ordered to  
16    make full restitution to the victim for financial loss or  
17    expenditure resulting from the violation.

18    (b) Civil.--In addition to any criminal penalty, a society  
19    or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals which  
20    violates section 7.1(b) shall be subject to a civil penalty of  
21    not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000.

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