
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1968 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, ISAACSON, FREEMAN, HOWARD, READSHAW,
KINSEY, MERSKI, SHUSTERMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, MURT,
YOUNGBLOOD, McCLINTON, BURGOS, CALTAGIRONE, SAINATO, JOHNSON-
HARRELL, DeLUCA, MADDEN, MARKOSEK, DELLOSO, SCHWEYER, CIRESI,
MOUL, KIRKLAND, HOHENSTEIN, KENYATTA, RADER, GOODMAN,
NEILSON, FRANKEL, BROOKS, HANBIDGE, BIZZARRO, ROZZI, SOLOMON,
CONKLIN, MALAGARI, HARKINS, FITZGERALD, KORTZ AND PASHINSKI,
OCTOBER 21, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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 prohibition of
4 ownership of certain animals.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5555 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 5555. Prohibition of ownership.

10 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any provision of law and
11 in addition to any other penalty provided by law, the authority
12 imposing sentence upon a conviction for a violation of this
13 subchapter [may] shall order the prohibition [or limitation] of
14 the defendant's ownership, possession, control or custody of
15 animals or employment with the care of animals for a period of
16 [time not to exceed the statutory maximum term of imprisonment

1 applicable to the offense for which sentence is being imposed]
2 no less than two years. A humane society police officer, law
3 enforcement officer or State dog warden shall have authority to
4 ensure compliance with this section and may notify the local
5 district attorney who may petition the court to remove animals
6 kept in violation of this section.

7 (b) Violence prevention counseling required.--

8 (1) An order issued under subsection (a) shall require
9 the defendant to attend and complete violence prevention
10 counseling, which attendance and completion must be proven to
11 the authority imposing the sentence through a signed and
12 dated written acknowledgment.

13 (2) For a second or subsequent violation of this
14 subchapter, the authority shall require further violence
15 prevention counseling, which must be satisfactorily completed
16 and documented each time and provided to the authority
17 imposing the sentence.

18 (c) Offense defined.--An individual subject to this section
19 commits an offense if the individual:

20 (1) Fails to attend and complete violence prevention
21 counseling as ordered by the authority.

22 (2) Possesses, owns, controls or has custody of or is
23 employed with the care of an animal while the order remains
24 in effect.

25 (d) Grading.--

26 (1) A violation of subsection (c) (2) shall constitute a
27 misdemeanor of the third degree and, upon conviction, shall
28 result in a prohibition extension of at least one year.

29 (2) A second violation of subsection (c) (2) shall
30 constitute a misdemeanor of the second degree and, upon

1 conviction, shall result in a prohibition extension of at
2 least five years.

3 (3) A third or subsequent violation of subsection (c)(2)
4 shall constitute a misdemeanor of the first degree and, upon
5 conviction, shall result in a prohibition extension of at
6 least 10 years.

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