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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1267 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY YAW, KILLION, BAKER, COSTA, BREWSTER, AUMENT,  
TARTAGLIONE, SCAVELLO, K. WARD, STEFANO AND YUDICHAK,  
AUGUST 18, 2020

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REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, AUGUST 18, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Dog Law and Puppy Lemon Law Commission; and  
2 providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Dog Law and  
7 Puppy Lemon Law Commission Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Commission." The Dog Law and Puppy Lemon Law Commission  
13 established by this act.

14 "Dog Law." The act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),  
15 known as the Dog Law.

16 "Puppy Lemon Law." Section 9.3 of the act of December 17,  
17 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and

1 Consumer Protection Law.

2 Section 3. Dog Law and Puppy Lemon Law Commission.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Dog Law and Puppy Lemon Law  
4 Commission is established.

5 (b) Membership.--The commission shall consist of the  
6 following members:

7 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth or  
8 a designee.

9 (2) The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth or a  
10 designee.

11 (3) A representative of the University of Pennsylvania  
12 School of Veterinary Medicine who is nominated by the  
13 President of the University of Pennsylvania and appointed by  
14 the Governor.

15 (4) A member of a Statewide association of veterinarians  
16 who is appointed by the Governor.

17 (5) Two representatives of national associations that  
18 have as their purpose the prevention of cruelty to animals  
19 who are appointed by the Governor.

20 (6) A member of a national association for the breeding  
21 of dogs who is appointed by the Governor.

22 (7) A representative of the insurance industry in this  
23 Commonwealth who is appointed by the Governor.

24 (8) A pharmacist in this Commonwealth who is appointed  
25 by the Governor.

26 (9) Two law enforcement officers who are appointed by  
27 the Governor.

28 (10) Four members of the General Assembly, one of whom  
29 shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the  
30 Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader

1 of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker  
2 of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be  
3 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
4 Representatives.

5 (c) Terms.--Except for members who serve ex officio, members  
6 of the commission shall serve for a period of two years or until  
7 their successor is appointed.

8 (d) Meetings.--The commission shall meet regularly, but not  
9 less than annually.

10 Section 4. Powers and duties.

11 (a) Strategic plan.--The commission shall develop a  
12 comprehensive, evidence-based, strategic plan, through an inter-  
13 disciplinary collaboration between veterinarians, physicians,  
14 State agencies and legislators, to promote the health and well-  
15 being of residents, companion animals and the environment.

16 (b) Areas of focus.--In carrying out its duty under  
17 subsection (a), the commission shall focus on the following  
18 areas:

19 (1) The consolidation of all existing laws in this  
20 Commonwealth, including the Dog Law and Puppy Lemon Law,  
21 relating to cruelty to animals and making recommendations to  
22 the General Assembly for improvements and expansion of the  
23 laws.

24 (2) Dangerous dogs, aggressive dogs and dog bites.

25 (3) Consideration of whether the Puppy Lemon Law should  
26 be amended to include noncommercial transactions.

27 (4) Consideration of amendments to laws for the  
28 sheltering of dogs, including best practices for sheltering  
29 dogs owned by individuals who are homeless or victims of  
30 domestic abuse.

1 (5) Transportation of dogs into and within this  
2 Commonwealth, including health issues.

3 (6) The following relating to licensure and inspections:

4 (i) Requiring licensure for profit and not-for-  
5 profit kennels.

6 (ii) Increasing licensure fees to provide revenue  
7 for enforcement of relevant laws.

8 (iii) Authorizing veterinarians to issue individual  
9 dog licenses and to promote sterilization and  
10 microchipping of dogs.

11 (iv) Modernizing the systems in this Commonwealth  
12 for issuance of licensing dogs and kennels.

13 (7) Pain management in companion animals, including:

14 (i) Identification of best practices for providing  
15 relief of companion animals from suffering while  
16 balancing public health issues.

17 (ii) Alternative therapies.

18 (iii) Compounding of drugs and pharmacy issues.

19 (8) Consideration of expanding the Dog Law and Puppy  
20 Lemon Law to cat ownership.

21 (9) Emergency and disaster preparedness.

22 (c) Reports.--The commission shall make annual reports to  
23 the General Assembly relating to its activities under this act  
24 and any recommendations for legislation.

25 Section 5. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect in 60 days.