
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 232 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, FONTANA, YUDICHAK, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER,
COSTA AND KANE, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), entitled
2 "An act relating to dogs, regulating the keeping of dogs;
3 providing for the licensing of dogs and kennels; providing
4 for the protection of dogs and the detention and destruction
5 of dogs in certain cases; regulating the sale and
6 transportation of dogs; declaring dogs to be personal
7 property and the subject of theft; providing for the
8 abandonment of animals; providing for the assessment of
9 damages done to animals; providing for payment of damages by
10 the Commonwealth in certain cases and the liability of the
11 owner or keeper of dogs for such damages; imposing powers and
12 duties on certain State and local officers and employees;
13 providing penalties; and creating a Dog Law Restricted
14 Account," in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing
15 for issuance of dog licenses, compensation, proof required,
16 deposit of funds, records, license sales, rules and
17 regulations, failure to comply unlawful acts and penalties
18 and for applications for dog licenses, fees and penalties.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
20 hereby enacts as follows:

21 Section 1. Section 200(b) of the act of December 7, 1982
22 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended to read:

23 Section 200. Issuance of dog licenses; compensation; proof
24 required; deposit of funds; records; license sales;
25 rules and regulations; failure to comply; unlawful
26 acts; penalty.

1 * * *

2 (b) Compensation.--

3 (1) For services rendered in collecting and paying over
4 dog license fees, agents, for as long as they continue to act
5 in that capacity, may collect and retain [a sum equal to the
6 cost of a postage stamp plus \$1] the following amounts for
7 each dog license sold, which [amount] amounts shall be full
8 compensation for services rendered by them under this act[.]:

9 (i) Beginning on the effective date of this
10 subparagraph and continuing for one year, the amount
11 shall be:

12 (A) \$2.

13 (B) \$3, for each lifetime license sold.

14 (ii) Beginning one year from the effective date of
15 this subparagraph, the secretary shall have the authority
16 to establish by regulation the amount of compensation
17 collected. The amount established shall be only that
18 which is required to cover the reasonable and necessary
19 expenses of administering the duties provided in this
20 act. The amounts shall reflect the increased
21 administrative duties imposed in selling a license under
22 subparagraph (i) (A) and (B) and shall provide for
23 compensation to the county treasurer and agents under
24 subsection (a) (1), (4) and (5).

25 (2) The compensation shall be retained by the respective
26 agents and shall cover, among other things, the cost of
27 processing and issuing dog licenses, postage, mailing,
28 returns and bonding of the agents. A magisterial district
29 judge authorized by the county treasurer to process
30 applications for dog license certificates and issue dog

1 license certificates is not authorized to collect
2 compensation under this subsection. Agents under subsection
3 (a) (3) and (5) shall collect an additional 50¢ which shall be
4 remitted to the county treasurer, for the use of the county,
5 in the same manner as records are forwarded under subsection
6 (e).

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Section 201(a) and (b) of the act are amended and
9 the section is amended by adding subsections to read:

10 Section 201. Applications for dog licenses; fees; penalties.

11 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), on
12 or before January 1 of each year, the owner of any dog, [~~three~~
13 ~~months~~] eight weeks of age or older, except as hereinafter
14 provided, shall apply to the county treasurer of his respective
15 county or an agent under section 200(a), on a form prescribed by
16 the department, for the appropriate license for the dog. The
17 application and license certificate shall state the breed, sex,
18 age, color and markings of the dog, the name, address and
19 telephone number of the owner and the year of licensure. The
20 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee.
21 [as follows:

22 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed
23 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of
24 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is
25 produced, the license fee shall be \$5.

26 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee
27 shall be \$7.

28 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older
29 and persons with disabilities:

30 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed

1 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor
2 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is
3 produced, the license fee shall be \$3.

4 (ii) For all other male and female dogs, the license
5 fee shall be \$5.

6 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),
7 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or
8 disability.

9 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag
10 issued under this subsection shall be in addition to the
11 required license fee under this section. The additional cost
12 shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer
13 that issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A
14 vanity or collector tag shall not be issued without approval
15 of the department.]

16 (a.1) Fee schedule.--Beginning on the effective date of this
17 subsection and continuing for at least one year, the license
18 fees shall be as follows:

19 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), the
20 fees shall be:

21 (i) \$10.

22 (ii) \$49, for a lifetime license fee.

23 (2) For Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years
24 of age and persons with disabilities, the fees shall be:

25 (i) \$7.

26 (ii) \$33, for a lifetime license fee.

27 (a.2) Regulations.--Beginning one year from the effective
28 date of this subsection, the department may promulgate
29 regulations to adjust the dog license fees under this section.
30 The fees shall meet the reasonable expenses of administering the

1 duties under this act. The department shall establish separate
2 fees for Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years of age
3 and persons with disabilities.

4 (a.3) Applicability.--Compensation, if collected under
5 section 200(b), shall be paid by all applicants, regardless of
6 age, disability or type of license.

7 (a.4) Vanity and collector tags.--All additional costs of a
8 vanity or collector tag issued under this section shall be in
9 addition to the required fee under this section. The additional
10 cost shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer
11 who issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A
12 vanity or collector tag may not be issued without approval of
13 the department.

14 (b) Lifetime license.--The owner of any dog [three months of
15 age or older] which has been permanently identified may apply to
16 the county treasurer of his respective county or an agent under
17 section 200(a), on a form prescribed by the department for a
18 lifetime license for such a dog. Except as otherwise provided in
19 this act, a dog which has been issued a lifetime license shall
20 be required to wear a license tag. The application and license
21 certificate shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings
22 of such dog, the type and number of permanent identification and
23 the name, address and telephone number of the owner. The
24 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee
25 [as follows:

26 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed
27 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of
28 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is
29 produced, the lifetime license fee shall be \$30.

30 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee

1 shall be \$50.

2 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older
3 and persons with disabilities:

4 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed
5 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor
6 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is
7 produced, the license fee shall be \$20.

8 (ii) For all other male and female dogs, the license
9 fee shall be \$30.

10 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),
11 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or
12 disability. A dog which has been issued a lifetime license
13 prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject
14 to fees under this subsection.

15 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag
16 issued under this subsection shall be charged in addition to
17 the fees under this section. The additional cost shall be
18 distributed equally between the county treasurer that issued
19 the tag and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A vanity or
20 collector tag shall not be issued without approval of the
21 department.] established under subsections (a.1) and (a.2).

22 * * *

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.