

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 351 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, D. COSTA, KORTZ, DEASY, BIZZARRO,
KINSEY, SCHREIBER, W. KELLER, SAINATO, FLYNN, PASHINSKI,
McNEILL, O'BRIEN, THOMAS, WATSON, MATZIE, RAVENSTAHL, HARHAI,
GOODMAN, DeLUCA, MURT, CARROLL, CONKLIN, COHEN, ROEBUCK,
GIBBONS AND MAHONEY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in further judicial
3 action, providing for animal abuser registry.

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

6 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 9778. Animal abuser registry.

9 (a) Registration required.--An animal abuser located within
10 the boundaries of this Commonwealth for more than 10 days shall
11 register with the county sheriff for the county in which the
12 animal abuser is located before the end of the 11th day. A
13 previously registered animal abuser shall reregister with the
14 county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser is now
15 located no later than 10 days after moving to the new location
16 in this Commonwealth.

17 (b) Information required.--

1 (1) The animal abuser shall provide the county sheriff
2 with the following information:

3 (i) Legal name and any other names or aliases that
4 he or she uses or has used.

5 (ii) Date of birth.

6 (iii) Social Security number.

7 (iv) Current address or location.

8 (v) Place of employment.

9 (vi) The felony offense he or she was convicted of
10 and the date and location of the offense.

11 (2) The sheriff shall obtain the following from the
12 animal abuser:

13 (i) A photograph of the animal abuser and a complete
14 set of his or her fingerprints.

15 (ii) A description of any tattoos, scars or other
16 distinguishing features on his or her body that would
17 assist in identifying the animal abuser.

18 (3) Following the initial registration under this
19 section, an animal abuser shall annually renew the
20 registration with the county sheriff prior to December 31 of
21 each subsequent calendar year for a period of 15 years.

22 (c) Penalties.--An animal abuser who intentionally or
23 knowingly fails to comply with the registration requirements of
24 this section or who provides false information when complying
25 with the registration requirements of this section is guilty of
26 a felony of the third degree.

27 (d) Central and local registries.--

28 (1) The county sheriff shall maintain a local registry
29 of animal abusers in the sheriff's jurisdiction. The sheriff
30 shall be responsible for the following:

1 (i) Forwarding all registration information to the
2 Pennsylvania State Police.

3 (ii) Within 10 days of receiving an initial
4 registration from an animal abuser, the county sheriff
5 shall contact every residence, school, humane society,
6 animal shelter and any other business within a one-half-
7 mile radius of the animal abuser's residence or location
8 and provide them with the animal abuser's registration
9 information except for the Social Security number.

10 (2) The Pennsylvania State Police shall maintain a
11 central registry of animal abusers required to register under
12 this section. The central registry of animal abusers shall be
13 made available to the public through the Internet and
14 telephone, by written access and in person. All of the
15 information contained in an animal abuser's registration,
16 with the exception of the Social Security number or any other
17 information protected by law, shall be made available to the
18 public. Records of each registration shall be maintained for
19 the 15-year period that the animal abuser is required to be
20 registered.

21 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
22 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
23 subsection:

24 "Animal abuser." An individual 18 years of age or older who
25 has been convicted of a felony violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 5511
26 (relating to cruelty to animals), 5511.2 (relating to police
27 animals) or 5511.3 (relating to assault with a biological agent
28 on animal, fowl or honey bees) or any other felony violation of
29 a statute protecting animal welfare.

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