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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

No. **965** Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, HUGHES, FONTANA, ERICKSON, BROWNE,  
WASHINGTON, SOLOBAY, SMITH, STACK, TEPLITZ, ALLOWAY,  
RAFFERTY, WHITE AND VULAKOVICH, MAY 29, 2013

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MAY 29, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for cruelty to  
3 animals.

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

6 Section 1. Section 5511(c) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

9 \* \* \*

10 (c) Cruelty to animals.--

11 (1) A person commits an offense if he wantonly or  
12 cruelly illtreats, overloads, beats, otherwise abuses any  
13 animal, or neglects any animal as to which he has a duty of  
14 care, whether belonging to himself or otherwise, or abandons  
15 any animal, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance,  
16 drink, shelter or veterinary care, or access to clean and  
17 sanitary shelter which will protect the animal against  
18 inclement weather and preserve the animal's body heat and

1 keep it dry.

2 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii), a  
3 person convicted of violating paragraph (1) commits a  
4 summary offense.

5 (ii) A person convicted of violating paragraph (1)  
6 commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and for a  
7 second or subsequent time of violating paragraph (1)  
8 commits a misdemeanor of the [third] second degree if all  
9 of the following occurred:

10 (A) The action or omission for which the person  
11 was convicted [for a subsequent time] was performed  
12 on a dog or cat.

13 (B) The dog or cat was seriously injured,  
14 suffered severe physical distress or was placed at  
15 imminent risk of serious physical harm as the result  
16 of the person's action or omission.

17 (3) This subsection shall not apply to activity  
18 undertaken in normal agricultural operation.

19 \* \* \*

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