
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1216 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, D. COSTA, W. KELLER, FREEMAN, MILLARD,
READSHAW, CORBIN, McNEILL, DONATUCCI, V. BROWN, DEAN,
KAUFFMAN, SOLOMON, BULLOCK, DeLUCA, SCHLOSSBERG, WARD, RYAN,
WHEELAND, MASSER, WARREN, HILL-EVANS, GILLEN, DiGIROLAMO,
DAVIS, ROZZI AND RADER, APRIL 17, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 17, 2017

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 the offense of
4 cruelty to animals.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5511 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 * * *

11 (h.3) Leaving animal in unattended vehicle.--

12 (1) A person owes a duty of care to a dog or cat that
13 the person leaves confined in an unattended vehicle.

14 (2) No police officer, humane society police officer or
15 firefighter who enters into an unattended vehicle in order to
16 rescue a dog or cat, nor the employer of any such person,
17 shall be liable for any damage caused by the rescue, provided

1 that the person:

2 (i) Prior to entry, makes a reasonable effort to
3 locate the person who owes a duty of care to the animal.

4 (ii) Acts under a reasonable belief that the animal
5 is in severe physical distress.

6 (iii) Takes reasonable steps to ensure or restore
7 the well-being of the animal.

8 (iv) Leaves a note on or in the vehicle stating the
9 names of the person and the person's employer, a
10 telephone number and the location where the animal may be
11 retrieved.

12 (3) The immunity provided in paragraph (2) shall apply
13 regardless of whether the person is charged with or found
14 guilty of committing an offense under this section.

15 * * *

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