
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1463 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, CARROLL, P. COSTA, McNEILL, KAVULICH,
SCHLOSSBERG AND KIRKLAND, MAY 31, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MAY 31, 2017

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 penalty,
18 for application for dog licenses, fees and penalties and for
19 tags furnished to county treasurers and other agents and lost
20 tags; and, in enforcement and penalties, further providing
21 for disposition of fines and penalties.

22 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
23 hereby enacts as follows:

24 Section 1. Section 200(b) of the act of December 7, 1982
25 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended and
26 subsection (a) is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
27 Section 200. Issuance of dog licenses; compensation; proof

1 required; deposit of funds; records; license sales;
2 rules and regulations; failure to comply; unlawful
3 acts; penalty.

4 (a) Issuance of dog licenses.--

5 * * *

6 (6) The secretary shall have the authority to establish,
7 operate and maintain, through a vendor or otherwise, a single
8 Statewide dog licensing Internet website capable of selling
9 dog licenses online in each county and processing payment
10 therefor, capable of processing dog license certificates and
11 issuing dog license certificates and tags in each county and
12 capable of maintaining an accurate, complete and single
13 Statewide registry of all licensed dogs in this Commonwealth
14 no matter by whom or how the license was sold. All agents
15 shall be required to submit electronic records of dog license
16 sales to the registry such that accuracy and completeness of
17 the the registry is maintained at all times.

18 (b) Compensation.--For services rendered in collecting and
19 paying over dog license fees, agents, for as long as they
20 continue to act in that capacity, may collect and retain [a sum
21 equal to the cost of a postage stamp plus \$1] the following
22 amount for each dog license sold, which amount shall be full
23 compensation for services rendered by them under this act.

24 (1) Beginning the effective date of this paragraph and
25 continuing for one year, the amount shall be \$2. For any
26 lifetime license sold, the fee shall be \$3.

27 (2) Beginning one year from the effective date of this
28 paragraph, the secretary shall have the authority to
29 establish by regulation the amount of compensation collected.
30 The amount established shall be only that which is required

1 to cover the reasonable and necessary expenses of
2 administering the duties provided in this act. The amounts
3 shall reflect the increased administrative duties imposed in
4 selling a lifetime dog license and shall provide for
5 compensation to the county treasurer and agents under
6 paragraphs (a) (1), (4) and (5).

7 (3) The compensation shall be retained by the respective
8 agents and shall cover, among other things, the cost of
9 processing and issuing dog licenses, postage, mailing,
10 returns and bonding of the agents. A magisterial district
11 judge authorized by the county treasurer to process
12 applications for dog license certificates and issue dog
13 license certificates is not authorized to collect
14 compensation under this subsection. [Agents under subsection
15 (a) (3) and (5) shall collect an additional 50¢ which shall be
16 remitted to the county treasurer, for the use of the county,
17 in the same manner as records are forwarded under subsection
18 (e).]

19 * * *

20 Section 2. Sections 201, 203 and 905 of the act are amended
21 to read:

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

23 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), on
24 or before January 1 of each year, the owner of any dog, three
25 months of age or older, except as hereinafter provided, shall
26 apply to the county treasurer of his respective county or an
27 agent under section 200(a), on a form prescribed by the
28 department, for the appropriate license for the dog. The
29 application and license certificate shall state the breed, sex,
30 age, color and markings of the dog, the name, address and

1 telephone number of the owner and the year of licensure. The
2 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee
3 [as follows:

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

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

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

12 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed
13 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor
14 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is
15 produced, the license fee shall be \$3.

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

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

21 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag
22 issued under this subsection shall be in addition to the
23 required license fee under this section. The additional cost
24 shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer
25 that issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A
26 vanity or collector tag shall not be issued without approval
27 of the department].

28 (a.1) Fee schedule.--Beginning on the effective date of
29 this subsection and continuing for one year, the license fees
30 shall be:

1 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed
2 female dog for which a certificate of a licensed doctor of
3 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is
4 produced, the license fee shall be \$8 and the lifetime
5 license fee shall be \$44.

6 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee
7 shall be \$11 and the lifetime license fee shall be \$74.

8 (3) For Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years
9 of age and persons with disabilities:

10 (i) The license fee under paragraph (1) shall be \$5
11 and the lifetime license fee shall be \$29.

12 (ii) The license fee under paragraph (2) shall be \$8
13 and the lifetime license fee shall be \$44.

14 (4) Beginning one year from the effective date of this
15 subsection, the secretary shall have the authority to
16 establish by regulation the amount of a dog license fee. The
17 amount established shall be only that which is required to
18 cover the reasonable and necessary expenses of administering
19 the duties under this act. License fee amount shall be
20 separately established for neutered male or spayed female
21 dogs, Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years of age
22 and persons with disabilities.

23 (a.2) Applicability.--Compensation, if collected under
24 section 200(b) shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless
25 of age, disability or type of license.

26 (a.3) Vanity and collector tags.--All additional costs of a
27 vanity or collector tag issued under this section shall be in
28 addition to the required license fee under this section. The
29 additional cost shall be distributed equally between the county
30 treasurer that issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted

1 Account. A vanity or collector tag shall not be issued without
2 approval of the department.

3 (b) Lifetime license.--The owner of any dog three months of
4 age or older which has been permanently identified may apply to
5 the county treasurer of his respective county or an agent under
6 section 200(a), on a form prescribed by the department for a
7 lifetime license for such a dog. Except as otherwise provided in
8 this act, a dog which has been issued a lifetime license shall
9 be required to wear a license tag. The application and license
10 certificate shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings
11 of such dog, the type and number of permanent identification and
12 the name, address and telephone number of the owner. The
13 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee
14 as [follows:

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

19 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee
20 shall be \$50.

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

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

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

29 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),
30 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or

1 disability. A dog which has been issued a lifetime license
2 prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject
3 to fees under this subsection.

4 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag
5 issued under this subsection shall be charged in addition to
6 the fees under this section. The additional cost shall be
7 distributed equally between the county treasurer that issued
8 the tag and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A vanity or
9 collector tag shall not be issued without approval of the
10 department.] established under subsection (a.1).

11 (c) Penalty.--A person who violates this section commits a
12 summary offense and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay
13 a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$300 for each
14 unlicensed dog. Fraudulent statements, including those related
15 to the breed of the dog, failure to pay the appropriate fee or
16 failure to update records, including address and contact
17 information, within 120 days of moving constitute a violation.
18 The burden of proof shall be the same as under section 802.
19 Section 203. Tags furnished to county treasurers and other
20 agents; lost tags.

21 The department shall furnish to the county treasurers and to
22 other agents under section 200(a) tags to be given to applicants
23 for dog licenses. [The department shall furnish to the county
24 treasurers tags to be distributed to agents under section 200(a)
25 (3) and (5).] Such tags shall bear the name of the county where
26 such dog license is issued and a serial number corresponding to
27 the number on the issued dog license certificate. Such tags
28 shall not contain more than one square inch of area between the
29 ears or the fastening device and have impressed thereon the
30 calendar year for which the tag is valid. If any tag is lost, it

1 shall be replaced by the county treasurer upon production of the
2 dog license certificate. The cost for the issuance of a tag due
3 to loss shall be \$1 paid to the county treasurer for the use of
4 the county.

5 Section 905. Disposition of fines and penalties.

6 Fines and penalties shall be disposed of as follows:

7 (1) If a prosecution pursuant to this act is initiated
8 by a State dog warden, employee of the department or State
9 Police officer, all fines forfeited, recognizances and other
10 forfeitures imposed, lost or forfeited under this act shall
11 be payable through the Department of Agriculture into the
12 State Treasury for credit to the Dog Law Restricted Account.

13 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. § 3733
14 (relating to deposits into account) or any other law to the
15 contrary, any and all fines, fees and costs collected by a
16 division of the unified judicial system as a result of the
17 prosecution, conviction or guilty plea of persons charged
18 with a violation of this act shall be deposited into the Dog
19 Law Restricted Account and shall not be subject to being
20 deposited or transferred into any other account.

21 (3) If a prosecution pursuant to this act is initiated
22 by a local police officer or animal control officer, all
23 fines forfeited, recognizances and other forfeitures imposed,
24 lost or forfeited under this act shall be payable to the
25 political subdivision which employs such local police officer
26 or animal control officer.

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.