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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 176 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY RESCHENTHALER, BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, SABATINA,  
VULAKOVICH, VOGEL, BREWSTER, COSTA, WAGNER, HAYWOOD, KILLION,  
LAUGHLIN, RAFFERTY, ALLOWAY AND BOSCOLA, JANUARY 25, 2017

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 25, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic  
2 Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in  
3 riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, further  
4 providing for the offense of cruelty to animals; and, in  
5 child protective services, further providing for persons  
6 required to report suspected child abuse.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 5511(q) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania  
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition and the  
11 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

13 \* \* \*

14 (c.1) Mandatory reporting.--If a social services employee  
15 forms a reasonable suspicion that an animal is the victim of  
16 cruelty, the social services employee shall report the suspicion  
17 to an agent of a society or association for the prevention of  
18 cruelty to animals incorporated under the laws of this  
19 Commonwealth.

1 \* \* \*

2 (q) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
3 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
4 subsection:

5 \* \* \*

6 "Social services employee." Any of the following providing  
7 human services:

8 (1) An employee of the Commonwealth or a political  
9 subdivision of the Commonwealth.

10 (2) An employee providing human services under contract  
11 to the Commonwealth or a political subdivision of the  
12 Commonwealth.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 2. Section 6311(a) of Title 23 is amended by adding  
15 a paragraph to read:

16 § 6311. Persons required to report suspected child abuse.

17 (a) Mandated reporters.--The following adults shall make a  
18 report of suspected child abuse, subject to subsection (b), if  
19 the person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a  
20 victim of child abuse:

21 \* \* \*

22 (17) An animal control officer or humane society police  
23 officer.

24 \* \* \*

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