

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2799 Session of  
2020

INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, CALTAGIRONE, CIRESI, DUSH, GABLER,  
GOODMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, JOZWIAK, KENYATTA, KRUEGER,  
MERSKI, MILLARD, O'NEAL, READSHAW, RIGBY, SANCHEZ,  
SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON, WEBSTER, FARRY, KORTZ AND HARKINS,  
AUGUST 18, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
AUGUST 18, 2020

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, exempting persons  
15 who use detection dogs from fees and other charges.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. Section 217 of the act of December 7, 1982  
19 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended to read:

20 Section 217. Service dogs, detection dogs and dogs used by  
21 municipal or State Police departments.

22 (a) Fee exemptions.--The provisions of this act relating to

1 the payment of fees and other charges shall not apply to any  
2 person who uses a detection dog, former detection dog or service  
3 dog for aid or any municipal or State Police department or  
4 agency using a dog in the performance of the functions or duties  
5 of such department or agency. License tags for detection dogs,  
6 former detection dogs, service dogs and dogs used by any  
7 municipal or State agency in the performance of the functions or  
8 duties of such department or agency shall be issued without  
9 charge.

10 (b) Licensing exemption for puppies being trained to be  
11 service dogs.--Notwithstanding the provisions of section 201 or  
12 any other provisions of this act, puppies that are brought into  
13 this Commonwealth for a period of less than 18 months as part of  
14 a formalized training to be service dogs shall be exempt from  
15 the licensing requirements of this act.

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