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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 477 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, K. WARD, COSTA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BROWNE,  
ARGALL, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, TARTAGLIONE, L. WILLIAMS,  
BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-  
HILL, STEFANO, VOGEL AND J. WARD, MARCH 26, 2019

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 26, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and  
3 immunities, further providing for emergency response provider  
4 and bystander good Samaritan civil immunity.

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

7 Section 1. Section 8332(d) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by  
9 adding subsections to read:

10 § 8332. Emergency response provider and bystander good  
11 Samaritan civil immunity.

12 \* \* \*

13 (a.1) Police animals.--An emergency response provider, who  
14 has completed training as required under subsection (b.1), and  
15 who in good faith renders emergency care, treatment, first aid  
16 or rescue to a police animal at the scene of an emergency event  
17 or crime shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result  
18 of rendering such care, except in any act or omission

1 intentionally designed to harm or any grossly negligent acts or  
2 omissions which result in harm to the police animal receiving  
3 emergency care.

4 (b.1) Training.--For purposes of subsection (a.1), an  
5 emergency response provider who renders emergency care to a  
6 police animal shall have completed training in emergency  
7 veterinary care consistent with standards identified and  
8 approved by an entity which provides continuing education for  
9 veterinary care in this Commonwealth.

10 \* \* \*

11 (d) [Definition.--For the purposes of this section, the term  
12 "emergency response provider" includes] Definitions.--As used in  
13 this section, the following words and phrases shall have the  
14 meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context  
15 clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Emergency response provider." Federal, State and local  
17 emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response,  
18 emergency medical services personnel, response teams, agencies  
19 and authorities, excluding hospital emergency facilities and  
20 related personnel.

21 "Police animal." As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 5531 (relating  
22 to definitions).

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