

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 526 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, SCHLOSSBERG, GALLOWAY, HOWARD,
D. WILLIAMS, CONKLIN, WHEELAND, MALAGARI, KINKEAD, KINSEY,
SAPPEY, STURLA, BURGOS, HOHENSTEIN AND ISAACSON,
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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 and for applications for dog licenses, fees and
18 penalties.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
20 hereby enacts as follows:

21 Section 1. Section 200(b) of the act of December 7, 1982
22 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended to read:

23 Section 200. Issuance of dog licenses; compensation; proof
24 required; deposit of funds; records; license sales;

1 rules and regulations; failure to comply; unlawful
2 acts; penalty.

3 * * *

4 (b) Compensation.--

5 (1) For services rendered in collecting and paying over
6 dog license fees, agents, for as long as they continue to act
7 in that capacity, may collect and retain [a sum equal to the
8 cost of a postage stamp plus \$1] the following amounts for
9 each dog license sold, which [amount] amounts shall be full
10 compensation for services rendered by them under this act[.]:

11 (i) Beginning on the effective date of this
12 subparagraph and continuing for one year, the amount
13 shall be:

14 (A) \$2.

15 (B) \$3, for each lifetime license sold.

16 (ii) Beginning one year from the effective date of
17 this subparagraph, the secretary shall have the authority
18 to establish by regulation the amount of compensation
19 collected. The amount established shall be only that
20 which is required to cover the reasonable and necessary
21 expenses of administering the duties provided in this
22 act. The amounts shall reflect the increased
23 administrative duties imposed in selling a license under
24 subparagraph (i) (A) and (B) and shall provide for
25 compensation to the county treasurer and agents under
26 subsection (a) (1), (4) and (5).

27 (2) The compensation shall be retained by the respective
28 agents and shall cover, among other things, the cost of
29 processing and issuing dog licenses, postage, mailing,
30 returns and bonding of the agents. A magisterial district

1 judge authorized by the county treasurer to process
2 applications for dog license certificates and issue dog
3 license certificates is not authorized to collect
4 compensation under this subsection. Agents under subsection
5 (a) (3) and (5) shall collect an additional 50¢ which shall be
6 remitted to the county treasurer, for the use of the county,
7 in the same manner as records are forwarded under subsection
8 (e).

9 * * *

10 Section 2. Section 201(a) and (b) of the act are amended and
11 the section is amended by adding subsections to read:

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

13 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), on
14 or before January 1 of each year, the owner of any dog, [~~three~~
15 ~~months~~] eight weeks of age or older, except as hereinafter
16 provided, shall apply to the county treasurer of his respective
17 county or an agent under section 200(a), on a form prescribed by
18 the department, for the appropriate license for the dog. The
19 application and license certificate shall state the breed, sex,
20 age, color and markings of the dog, the name, address and
21 telephone number of the owner and the year of licensure. The
22 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee.

23 [as follows:

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

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

30 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older

1 and persons with disabilities:

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

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

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

11 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag
12 issued under this subsection shall be in addition to the
13 required license fee under this section. The additional cost
14 shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer
15 that issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A
16 vanity or collector tag shall not be issued without approval
17 of the department.]

18 (a.1) Fee schedule.--Beginning on the effective date of this
19 subsection and continuing for at least one year, the license
20 fees shall be as follows:

21 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), the
22 fees shall be:

23 (i) \$10.

24 (ii) \$49, for a lifetime license fee.

25 (2) For Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years
26 of age and persons with disabilities, the fees shall be:

27 (i) \$7.

28 (ii) \$33, for a lifetime license fee.

29 (a.2) Regulations.--Beginning one year from the effective
30 date of this subsection, the department may promulgate

1 regulations to adjust the dog license fees under this section.
2 The fees shall meet the reasonable expenses of administering the
3 duties under this act. The department shall establish separate
4 fees for Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years of age
5 and persons with disabilities.

6 (a.3) Applicability.--Compensation, if collected under
7 section 200(b), shall be paid by all applicants, regardless of
8 age, disability or type of license.

9 (a.4) Vanity and collector tags.--All additional costs of a
10 vanity or collector tag issued under this section shall be in
11 addition to the required fee under this section. The additional
12 cost shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer
13 who issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A
14 vanity or collector tag may not be issued without approval of
15 the department.

16 (b) Lifetime license.--The owner of any dog [three months of
17 age or older] which has been permanently identified may apply to
18 the county treasurer of his respective county or an agent under
19 section 200(a), on a form prescribed by the department for a
20 lifetime license for such a dog. Except as otherwise provided in
21 this act, a dog which has been issued a lifetime license shall
22 be required to wear a license tag. The application and license
23 certificate shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings
24 of such dog, the type and number of permanent identification and
25 the name, address and telephone number of the owner. The
26 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee
27 [as follows:

28 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed
29 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of
30 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is

1 produced, the lifetime license fee shall be \$30.

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

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

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

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

12 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),
13 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or
14 disability. A dog which has been issued a lifetime license
15 prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject
16 to fees under this subsection.

17 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag
18 issued under this subsection shall be charged in addition to
19 the fees under this section. The additional cost shall be
20 distributed equally between the county treasurer that issued
21 the tag and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A vanity or
22 collector tag shall not be issued without approval of the
23 department.] established under subsections (a.1) and (a.2).

24 * * *

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