
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2052 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, DALEY, HOWARD,
PASHINSKI, McNEILL, SIMS, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON, O'MARA,
WEBSTER, CIRESI, SCHWEYER, SAINATO, McCLINTON, MARKOSEK,
KENYATTA, STEPHENS, PISCIOTTANO, FREEMAN, KOSIEROWSKI,
HANBIDGE, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BROOKS, GUENST AND DRISCOLL,
NOVEMBER 4, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, providing
3 for animal abuser registry.

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

6 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 9778. Animal abuser registry.

9 (a) Registration required.--An animal abuser located within
10 the boundaries of this Commonwealth for more than 10 days shall
11 register with the county sheriff for the county in which the
12 animal abuser is located before the end of the 11th day. A
13 previously registered animal abuser shall reregister with the
14 county sheriff for the county in which the animal abuser is now
15 located no later than 10 days after moving to the new location
16 in this Commonwealth.

1 (b) Information required.--

2 (1) The animal abuser shall provide the county sheriff
3 with the following information:

4 (i) Legal name and any other names or aliases that
5 the individual uses or has used.

6 (ii) Date of birth.

7 (iii) Social Security number.

8 (iv) Current address or location.

9 (v) Place of employment.

10 (vi) The felony offense the individual was convicted
11 of and the date and location of the offense.

12 (2) The county sheriff shall obtain the following from
13 the animal abuser:

14 (i) A photograph of the animal abuser and a complete
15 set of the individual's fingerprints.

16 (ii) A description of tattoos, scars or other
17 distinguishing features on the individual's body that
18 would assist in identifying the animal abuser.

19 (3) Following the initial registration under this
20 section, an animal abuser shall annually renew the
21 registration with the county sheriff prior to December 31 of
22 each subsequent calendar year for a period of 15 years.

23 (c) Penalties.--An animal abuser who intentionally or
24 knowingly fails to comply with the registration requirements of
25 this section or who provides false information when complying
26 with the registration requirements of this section is guilty of
27 a felony of the third degree.

28 (d) Central and local registries.--

29 (1) The county sheriff shall maintain a local registry
30 of animal abusers in the county sheriff's jurisdiction. The

1 county sheriff shall be responsible for the following:

2 (i) Forwarding all registration information to the
3 Pennsylvania State Police.

4 (ii) Within 10 days of receiving an initial
5 registration from an animal abuser, contacting every
6 residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any
7 other business within a one-half-mile radius of the
8 animal abuser's residence or location and providing them
9 with the animal abuser's registration information except
10 for the Social Security number.

11 (2) The Pennsylvania State Police shall maintain a
12 central registry of animal abusers required to register under
13 this section. The central registry of animal abusers shall be
14 made available to the public through the Internet, by
15 telephone, by written access and in person. All of the
16 information contained in an animal abuser's registration,
17 with the exception of the Social Security number or any other
18 information protected by law, shall be made available to the
19 public. Records of each registration shall be maintained for
20 the 15-year period that the animal abuser is required to be
21 registered.

22 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
23 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
24 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

25 "Animal abuser." An individual 18 years of age or older who
26 has been convicted of a felony violation of 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55
27 Subch. B (relating to cruelty to animals) or any other felony
28 violation of a statute protecting animal welfare.

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