

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 36 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, J. WARD, BROOKS AND SCHWANK, JANUARY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, JANUARY 20, 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 transfer of dog licenses or tags and other licensing
 16 requirements and for service dogs and dogs used by municipal
 17 or State Police departments.

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

20 Section 1. Sections 205 and 217(a) of the act of December 7,
 21 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, are amended to
 22 read:

23 Section 205. Transfer of dog licenses or tags; other licensing
 24 requirements.

25 (a) Transfer of dog license.--It is unlawful to transfer a

1 dog license or dog license tag issued for one dog to another
2 dog, except as otherwise provided in this act. The following
3 apply:

4 (1) Whenever the ownership or possession of [any] a dog
5 is permanently transferred from one person to another within
6 the same county, the license of [such] the dog may be
7 likewise transferred, upon application to an agent authorized
8 under section 200(a) [. Such application], including a county
9 treasurer.

10 (2) An application under this section shall be
11 accompanied by a bill of sale or an affidavit from the owner
12 that ownership of the dog is to be transferred. The owner
13 shall provide the owner's name, address, telephone number and
14 other relevant contact information.

15 (3) A new dog license, or the transfer of a dog license
16 already secured, is not required when the possession of a dog
17 is temporarily transferred for the purpose of hunting game,
18 or for breeding, boarding and training, trial or show, in
19 this Commonwealth. The issuing agent shall charge and retain
20 \$1 for [such] the transfer application.

21 (b) Dog moved to another county.--Whenever [any] a dog
22 licensed in one county is permanently moved to another county,
23 an issuing agent of the county where the dog license was issued
24 shall, upon the application of the owner or keeper of [such] the
25 dog, certify [such] the dog license to an agent of the county to
26 which the dog is moved. [Such] After payment of a fee of \$1, the
27 agent shall [thereupon, and upon the payment of a fee of \$1 for
28 the use of the agent,] issue a dog license and tag for [such]
29 the dog in the county to which it is moved.

30 (c) Owners of unlicensed dogs.--[Any] A person other than as

1 exempt in section 206, becoming the owner of [any] a dog three
2 months old or older, which has not already been licensed shall
3 [forthwith] apply for and secure a license for [such] the dog
4 under the provisions of this act.

5 Section 217. Service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State
6 Police departments.

7 (a) Fee exemptions.--

8 (1) The provisions of this act relating to the payment
9 of fees and other charges shall not apply to [any person who
10 uses a service dog for aid or any municipal or State Police
11 department or agency using a dog in the performance of the
12 functions or duties of such department or agency. License
13 tags for service dogs and dogs used by any municipal or State
14 agency in the performance of the functions or duties of such
15 department or agency shall be issued without charge.] :

16 (i) A person who uses a service dog for aid.

17 (ii) A municipal or State Police department or
18 police agency using a dog in the performance of the
19 functions or duties of the department or agency.

20 (iii) A service dog used in the performance of
21 services by a police department, fire department or
22 sheriff's office or in the performance of rescue services
23 or emergency medical services.

24 (2) A license tag for a dog described under paragraph
25 (1) shall be issued without charge.

26 (3) For purposes of paragraph (1)(iii), a letter on
27 official letterhead from the respective police chief, fire
28 chief, sheriff or director or authorized agent of the
29 department, agency or office providing the services, along
30 with evidence that the dog is a service dog, shall accompany

1 the application under section 201.

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