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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 907 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY YAW, FONTANA, MUTH, BAKER AND BREWSTER,  
OCTOBER 18, 2021

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REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 18, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Animal Welfare Board; and providing for its  
2 powers and duties.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Animal  
7 Welfare Board Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Board." The Animal Welfare Board established in section 3.

13 "Dog Law." The act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),  
14 known as the Dog Law.

15 Section 3. Animal Welfare Board.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Animal Welfare Board is established.

17 (b) Membership.--The board shall consist of residents of  
18 this Commonwealth who are members from each of the following:

- 1 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.
- 2 (2) The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary  
3 Medicine.
- 4 (3) The College of Agricultural Sciences of The  
5 Pennsylvania State University.
- 6 (4) The American Kennel Club.
- 7 (5) The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania.
- 8 (6) The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of  
9 Cruelty to Animals.
- 10 (7) Two individuals from the Pennsylvania Federation of  
11 Dog Clubs, at least one of whom represents a licensed kennel.
- 12 (8) Two individuals from the Pennsylvania Veterinary  
13 Medical Association.
- 14 (9) The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.
- 15 (10) PennAg Industries Association.
- 16 (11) The Pennsylvania State Grange.
- 17 (12) The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania.
- 18 (13) The Office of Attorney General.

19 (c) Chairperson and terms.--Except for members who serve ex  
20 officio, members of the board shall serve until a successor is  
21 appointed.

22 (d) Meetings.--The board shall meet at least once every  
23 legislative session or at intervals that may be necessary to  
24 fulfill the duties of the board under this act.

25 Section 4. Powers and duties.

26 (a) Strategic plan.--The board shall develop an initial  
27 report within one year of inception.

28 (b) Powers and duties.--The board shall review existing laws  
29 and regulations in this Commonwealth related to the keeping and  
30 handling of animals, including the following, and make

1 recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes:

2 (1) The Dog Law.

3 (2) Section 9.3 of the act of December 17, 1968  
4 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and  
5 Consumer Protection Law.

6 (3) 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 Subch. B (relating to cruelty to  
7 animals).

8 (4) 22 Pa.C.S. Ch. 37 (relating to humane society police  
9 officers).

10 (5) The Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.  
11 § 2131 et seq.).

12 (6) Any other law or regulation in this Commonwealth  
13 that the board determines relevant under this act.

14 (c) Report.--The board shall issue at least one biannual  
15 report to the General Assembly relating to board activities  
16 under this act and any recommendations for legislation or  
17 regulatory updates.

18 Section 5. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 120 days.