
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 785 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY YAW, BROOKS AND BAKER, JUNE 14, 2023

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, JUNE 14, 2023

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 under section
13 3.

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

16 Section 3. Animal Welfare Board.

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

18 (b) Membership.--The board shall consist of the following:

1 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.
2 (2) One member who is a resident of this Commonwealth
3 from each of the following:

- 4 (i) The University of Pennsylvania School of
5 Veterinary Medicine.
- 6 (ii) The College of Agricultural Sciences of The
7 Pennsylvania State University.
- 8 (iii) The American Kennel Club.
- 9 (iv) The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania.
- 10 (v) The Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation.
- 11 (vi) The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of
12 Cruelty to Animals.
- 13 (vii) The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.
- 14 (viii) PennAg Industries Association.
- 15 (ix) The Pennsylvania State Grange.
- 16 (x) The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania.
- 17 (xi) The Office of Attorney General.
- 18 (xii) The Pennsylvania State Police.
- 19 (xiii) The Pet Advocacy Network.

20 (3) Two members who are residents of this Commonwealth
21 from each of the following:

- 22 (i) The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, at
23 least one of whom represents a licensed kennel.
- 24 (ii) The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical
25 Association.

26 (c) Chairperson.--A majority of the members shall select the
27 chairperson of the board. The board shall select a chairperson
28 at its first meeting and then at the beginning of each
29 legislative session thereafter.

30 (d) Terms of members.--Except for members who serve ex

1 officio, members of the board shall serve until a successor is
2 appointed.

3 (e) Meetings.--The board shall meet at least once every
4 legislative session or at intervals that may be necessary to
5 fulfill the duties of the board under this act. The board shall
6 convene its first meeting within 60 days of the effective date
7 of this section.

8 Section 4. Powers and duties.

9 (a) Review of existing laws and regulations.--The board
10 shall review existing laws and regulations in this Commonwealth
11 related to the keeping and handling of animals, including the
12 following, and make recommendations for legislative and
13 regulatory changes:

14 (1) Section 9.3 of the act of December 17, 1968
15 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and
16 Consumer Protection Law.

17 (2) The Dog Law.

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

20 (4) 22 Pa.C.S. Ch. 37 (relating to humane society police
21 officers).

22 (5) 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54 (relating to transportation, sale,
23 and handling of certain animals).

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

26 (b) Report.--The board shall issue at least one biannual
27 report to the General Assembly relating to board activities
28 under this act and any recommendations for legislation or
29 regulatory updates.

30 Section 5. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 120 days.