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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1502 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, HOWARD, HOHENSTEIN, McNEILL, HILL-  
EVANS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, FLEMING, PIELLI, GREEN, GUENST,  
KINSEY, SCHWEYER AND PROBST, JUNE 23, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 23, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating  
3 to emergency management services, providing for emergency  
4 preparedness for owned animals.

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

7 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 7715. Emergency preparedness for owned animals.

10 (a) Declaration of purpose.--The purpose of this section is  
11 to establish and maintain a Statewide disaster plan and response  
12 capability for owned animals affected by disasters.

13 (b) Authority.--The agency shall:

14 (1) Administer the provisions of this section.

15 (2) Allocate money in accordance with this section.

16 (3) Include in the Commonwealth Emergency Management  
17 Plan provisions for the protection of owned animals in this  
18 Commonwealth in disasters.

1 (c) Eligible disaster funding.--The agency shall provide  
2 \$250,000 annually to an animal response team approved by the  
3 agency for planning, developing and maintaining animal response  
4 and rescue capabilities consistent with standards and guidelines  
5 established by the agency.

6 (d) Recordkeeping and audit.--The agency shall require an  
7 animal response team receiving money under this section to  
8 retain and provide, upon request, records that the agency  
9 believes are necessary to ensure that money is spent in  
10 accordance with this section.

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

14 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

15 "Owned animals." The term shall include any animal kept as a  
16 pet, agricultural commodity or pursuant to a permit issued by  
17 the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The term shall not include  
18 wildlife.

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