
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 164 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, HARKINS, RAVENSTAHL, KOTIK, SCHLOSSBERG,
O'NEILL, O'BRIEN, JAMES, SCHWEYER, WATSON, KILLION, FARRY,
BOBACK, MATZIE, HARPER, CONKLIN, SANTARSIERO, COHEN, TAYLOR,
HARHAI, DAVIS, DEASY, KORTZ, CARROLL, LONGIETTI, SNYDER,
MURT, FRANKEL, BAKER, KAUFFMAN, D. MILLER, A. HARRIS,
SAINATO, MAHER, DIGIROLAMO, GOODMAN, D. COSTA, QUINN, GRELL,
GINGRICH, M. K. KELLER, MACKENZIE, PICKETT, READSHAW,
GIBBONS, HACKETT, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, DEAN, TOBASH, McCARTER
AND SAMUELSON, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and
3 related offenses, further providing for the offense of
4 cruelty to animals.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5511(q) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition and the
9 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

10 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

11 * * *

12 (h.2) Possession of animal fighting paraphernalia.--In
13 addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person commits
14 a misdemeanor of the third degree if he knowingly owns or
15 possesses animal fighting paraphernalia.

1 * * *

2 (q) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
3 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
4 subsection:

5 * * *

6 "Animal fighting paraphernalia." Any device, implement,
7 object, facility, space or drug used, or intended to be used,
8 for animal fighting, to train an animal for animal fighting or
9 in furtherance of animal fighting. In determining whether an
10 object is animal fighting paraphernalia, a court or other
11 authority should consider statements by an owner or by anyone in
12 control of the object concerning its use, any prior convictions
13 under Federal or State law relating to animal fighting, the
14 proximity of the object in time and space to the direct
15 violation of this section, direct or circumstantial evidence of
16 the intent of the accused to deliver the object to persons whom
17 he or she knows or should reasonably know intends to use the
18 object to facilitate a violation of this section, oral or
19 written instructions provided with or in the vicinity of the
20 object concerning its use, descriptive materials accompanying
21 the object which explain or depict its use and all other
22 logically relevant factors.

23 * * *

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