
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2495 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY M. K. KELLER, MILLARD, BAKER, BLOOM, BOBACK,
BROWNLEE, BURNS, D. COSTA, DAVIS, ENGLISH, GINGRICH, HARHAI,
C. HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, MAHONEY, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MCGEEHAN,
MCNEILL, MURT, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PICKETT,
ROCK, SAYLOR, STERN, SWANGER, THOMAS, WATSON AND WHITE,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in cruelty to animals, providing for
3 civil and criminal immunity.

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

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

9 § 5511. Cruelty to animals.

10 * * *

11 (p.1) Immunity.--A licensed doctor of veterinary medicine,
12 certified veterinary technician or veterinary assistant who
13 reports, in good faith and in the normal course of business, a
14 suspected incident of animal cruelty to the proper authority
15 shall be immune from liability in a civil or criminal action
16 brought against the licensed doctor of veterinary medicine,

1 certified veterinary technician or veterinary assistant for
2 reporting the incident.

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

6 * * *

7 "Certified veterinary technician." As defined in section
8 3(13) of the act of December 27, 1974 (P.L.995, No.326), known
9 as the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

10 * * *

11 "Licensed doctor of veterinary medicine." As defined in
12 section 3(8) of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

13 * * *

14 "Veterinary assistant." As defined in section 3(14) of the
15 Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

16 * * *

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