

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2911 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, McNEILL, SHUSTERMAN, ISAACSON, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, DELLOSO, HOWARD, KENYATTA AND GUENST, OCTOBER 27, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 27, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), entitled
 2 "An act relating to dogs, regulating the keeping of dogs;
 3 providing for the licensing of dogs and kennels; providing
 4 for the protection of dogs and the detention and destruction
 5 of dogs in certain cases; regulating the sale and
 6 transportation of dogs; declaring dogs to be personal
 7 property and the subject of theft; providing for the
 8 abandonment of animals; providing for the assessment of
 9 damages done to animals; providing for payment of damages by
 10 the Commonwealth in certain cases and the liability of the
 11 owner or keeper of dogs for such damages; imposing powers and
 12 duties on certain State and local officers and employees;
 13 providing penalties; and creating a Dog Law Restricted
 14 Account," in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing
 15 for revocation or refusal of kennel licenses and providing
 16 for importation or sale of dogs; and, in enforcement and
 17 penalties, providing for whistleblower protection.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Section 211(a) introductory paragraph of the act
 21 of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is
 22 amended to read:

23 Section 211. Revocation or refusal of kennel licenses.

24 (a) General powers of secretary.--The secretary shall revoke

1 a kennel license, dealer license or out-of-state dealer license
2 if a licensee is convicted of a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 5511
3 (relating to cruelty to animals) or of substantially similar
4 conduct pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544, 7
5 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.), 18 U.S.C. § 48 (relating to animal
6 crushing) or a cruelty law of another state. The secretary shall
7 not issue a kennel license, dealer license or out-of-state
8 dealer license to a person that has been convicted of a
9 violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 5511 within the last ten years. The
10 secretary may revoke or refuse to issue a kennel license, dealer
11 license or out-of-state dealer license for any one or more of
12 the following reasons:

13 * * *

14 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

15 Section 222. Importation or sale of dogs.

16 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 908, a dealer or
17 kennel may not import for sale, sell or offer for sale,
18 including a sale for research purposes, a dog bred by a person
19 who has received any of the following from the United States
20 Department of Agriculture as authorized under the Animal Welfare
21 Act (Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) and its
22 attendant regulations:

23 (1) A citation for a direct or critical violation or
24 citations for three or more indirect or noncritical
25 violations during the two-year period before the procurement
26 of the dog.

27 (2) Two consecutive citations for no access to a housing
28 facility before the procurement of the dog.

29 Section 909. Whistleblower protection.

30 An employee of a business, nonprofit entity or government

1 entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employee
2 under the act of December 12, 1986 (P.L.1559, No.169), known as
3 the Whistleblower Law, with regard to a good faith report of a
4 potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act
5 (Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.). A business,
6 nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall
7 be deemed to be an employer under the Whistleblower Law with
8 regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this
9 act or the Animal Welfare Act.

10 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.