

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 645 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN AND ERICKSON, APRIL 3, 2013

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, APRIL 3, 2013

AN ACT

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

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. Section 501(a) of the act of December 7, 1982
 19 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, amended December 11,
 20 1996 (P.L.943, No.151), is amended to read:

21 Section 501. Killing dogs; dogs as nuisances.

22 (a) Legal to kill certain dogs.--[Any]

23 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person may
 24 kill any dog which he sees in the act of pursuing or wounding
 25 or killing any domestic animal, wounding or killing other

1 dogs, cats or household pets, or pursuing, wounding or
2 attacking human beings, whether or not such a dog bears the
3 license tag required by the provisions of this act.

4 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in counties of the
5 first class through third class, any person may kill any dog
6 which he sees in the act of pursuing with the apparent intent
7 to harm any domestic animal whether or not such a dog bears
8 the license tag required by the provisions of this act.

9 (3) There shall be no liability on such persons in
10 damages or otherwise for such killing.

11 * * *

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