



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 1

Bill #:SF-08

Sponsors: Cassandra Blake, Abby Caci, Claire Minney

An Act To

Amend Agriculture and Markets Law §353 establishing a registry for animal abusers which now only applies to New York City to include all of New York State.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose

The purpose of this bill is to expand the law to include all of New York State and to put anyone who is convicted of a misdemeanor within the state on a registry in order to prevent future cases of animal abuse.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Animal Abuse- The crime of inflicting physical pain, suffering or death on an animal, tame or wild, beyond necessity.

Felony- a crime sufficiently serious to carry a minimum term of one year or more in state prison, since a year or less can be served in county jail.

Misdemeanor- A minor offense, rather than a serious crime.

Section 2

Overdriving, torturing and injuring animals; failure to provide proper sustenance. A person who overdrives, overloads, tortures or cruelly beats or unjustifiably injures, maims, mutilates or kills any animal, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to himself or to another, or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or neglects or refuses to furnish it such sustenance or drink, or causes, procures or permits any animal to be overdriven, overloaded, tortured, cruelly beaten, or unjustifiably injured, maimed, mutilated or killed, or to be deprived of necessary food or drink, or who wilfully sets on foot, instigates, engages in, or in any way furthers any act of cruelty to any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and for purposes of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 160.10 of the criminal procedure law, shall be treated as a misdemeanor defined in the penal law. Any New York State resident convicted of such crime shall be placed onto a registry which is publicly available and must be checked before the purchase or adoption of an animal.



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Justification

We feel that it is necessary to expand the animal abuse registry to include all of New York State because New York City is only a small portion of New York State, yet the problem of animal abuse is state-wide. The animal abuse registry will prevent future cases of abuse by disallowing abusers from purchasing or adopting animals. Such registries already exists in many places, for example, Kentucky and Florida.

Fiscal Implications

There would be minimal cost to create and maintain the registry.

Environmental Implications

There would be no environmental impact.

Effective Date

This bill will take effect one year after passage.