

STATE OF NEW YORK

8927

IN SENATE

January 16, 2026

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the domestic relations law, in relation to companion animals

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

Section 1. Subparagraph 15 of paragraph d of subdivision 5 of part B of section 236 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 509 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

(15) (i) in awarding the possession of a companion animal, the court shall consider the best interest of such animal, including, but not limited to:

(A) whether the companion animal was acquired prior to or during the marriage;

(B) the basic daily needs of the companion animal;

(C) the party who generally facilitates veterinary care for the companion animal;

(D) the party who generally provides the companion animal with social interaction;

(E) the party who generally ensures compliance with state and local regulations regarding the companion animal; and

(F) the party who provides the greater ability to financially support the companion animal.

(ii) "Companion animal", as used in this subparagraph, shall have the same meaning as in subdivision five of section three hundred fifty of the agriculture and markets law; and

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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