S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

1508

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 2, 2009

Introduced by Sens. DeFRANCISCO, ALESI, GOLDEN, GRIFFO, LARKIN, LAVALLE, MORAHAN, SAMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a toll-free hotline to report animal fighting

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 351-a to read as follows:

S 351-A. ANIMAL FIGHTING HOTLINE. 1. THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A TOLL-FREE STATEWIDE NUMBER FOR USE IN THE INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF ANIMAL FIGHTING IN VIOLATION OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE OF THIS ARTICLE. SUCH TOLL-FREE NUMBER MAY BE USED BY PERSONS TO REPORT OBSERVATIONS OR KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONS ENGAGING IN CONDUCT SPECIFIED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE OF THIS ARTICLE.

2. INFORMATION CONCERNING ANIMAL FIGHTING ACTIVITY OBTAINED FROM USE OF THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE OR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT AND/OR TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (SPCA) IN THOSE COUNTIES WHERE SPCAS HAVE PEACE OFFICERS AUTHORIZED TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE COMMISSIONER, THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NUMBER, LOCATION AND NATURE OF THE CALLS RECEIVED ON THE ANIMAL FIGHTING HOTLINE. THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE PUBLISHED ON THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE'S WEBSITE.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

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

LBD03870-01-9