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2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 24, 2011
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Introduced by M. of A. RABBITT -- read once and referred to the Commit-
    tee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring any employee
    of a veterinary facility, animal hospital or clinic, animal boarding
    kennel, pound, shelter or rescue center or facility that provides
    services for animals to report an animal's injury, illness or condi-
    tion to the police if such employee reasonably suspects animal cruelty
    or abuse

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

1   Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6714-a
2   to read as follows:
3   S 6714-A. MANDATORY REPORT OF SUSPECTED ANIMAL CRUELTY, ABUSE OR
4   NEGLECT. 1. WHEN ANY EMPLOYEE OF A VETERINARY FACILITY, ANIMAL HOSPITAL
5   OR CLINIC, ANIMAL BOARDING KENNEL, POUND, SHELTER OR RESCUE CENTER OR
6   OTHER FACILITY THAT PROVIDES SERVICES FOR ANIMALS, REASONABLY AND IN
7   GOOD FAITH SUSPECTS THAT AN ANIMAL'S INJURY, ILLNESS OR CONDITION IS THE
8   RESULT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY OR A VIOLATION OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAW PERTAIN-
9   ING TO THE CARE, TREATMENT, ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF AN ANIMAL, SUCH EMPLOYEE
10 SHALL REPORT THE INCIDENT AND DISCLOSE RECORDS CONCERNING THE ANIMAL'S
11 CONDITION AND TREATMENT TO THE POLICE, DULY INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR THE
12 PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, PEACE OFFICERS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
13 OFFICE, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS,
14 OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY, OR ANY AGENT THEREOF.
15   2. AN EMPLOYEE ACTS IN GOOD FAITH WITHIN THE MEANING OF THIS SECTION
16 WHEN HE OR SHE REASONABLY BELIEVES THAT HIS OR HER ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY
17 TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE ANIMAL OR THE PUBLIC.
18   3. AN EMPLOYEE WHO REASONABLY AND IN GOOD FAITH REPORTS OR DISCLOSES
19 RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM LIABILITY
20 IN THE FORM OF DAMAGES IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING ON ACCOUNT OF
21 SUCH REPORTING OR DISCLOSURE.
22   S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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