

1594--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

Introduced by Sen. GRISANTI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to creating the animal abuser central registry, and to require that certain convicted animal abusers register with such registry

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

- 1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 380 to read as follows:  
3 S 380. ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND  
4 MAINTAIN A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF ANIMAL ABUSE AND  
5 REQUIRED TO REGISTER PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.  
6 2. ANY PERSON OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ONE  
7 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES SHALL REGISTER WITH THE COUNTY SHERIFF  
8 FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE ANIMAL ABUSER RESIDES:  
9 (A) A FELONY VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE;  
10 (B) A VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED  
11 FIFTY-THREE, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE-B, THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE,  
12 THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX OR THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX-A OF THIS ARTICLE;  
13 (C) A VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 195.06, 195.11 OR 195.12  
14 OF THE PENAL LAW;  
15 (D) A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF ARTICLE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-TWO OF  
16 THE PENAL LAW;  
17 (E) A VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION 130.20 OF THE PENAL  
18 LAW; OR  
19 (F) A VIOLATION OF COMPARABLE STATUTES OF ANOTHER STATE.  
20 3. UPON CONVICTION OF ANY OFFENSE SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (A), (B),  
21 (C), (D) OR (E) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL

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

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1 CERTIFY THAT THE CONVICTED PERSON IS AN ANIMAL ABUSER AND SHALL INCLUDE  
2 THE CERTIFICATION IN THE JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION AND THE ORDER OF COMMIT-  
3 MENT, IF ANY. THE COURT SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE JUDGMENT OF  
4 CONVICTION TO THE COUNTY SHERIFF WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE ENTRY OF THE  
5 JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION. THE COURT SHALL ALSO ADVISE THE ANIMAL ABUSER OF  
6 HIS OR HER DUTIES UNDER THIS ARTICLE. FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE CERTIF-  
7 ICATION IN THE JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION OR THE ORDER OF COMMITMENT SHALL  
8 NOT RELIEVE AN ANIMAL ABUSER OF THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED BY THIS SECTION.

9 4. A PERSON CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF ANOTHER STATE'S ANIMAL ABUSE  
10 STATUTE AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (F) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION  
11 WHO SUBSEQUENTLY BECOMES A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE SHALL, WITHIN THIRTY  
12 DAYS OF ENTERING THE STATE, REGISTER WITH THE CENTRAL REGISTRY.

13 5. (A) EACH REGISTRANT SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE  
14 COUNTY SHERIFF AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION:

15 (1) THE REGISTRANT'S NAME, ALL ALIASES USED, DATE OF BIRTH, SEX, RACE,  
16 HEIGHT, WEIGHT, EYE COLOR, DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AND CURRENT HOME  
17 ADDRESS AND/OR EXPECTED PLACE OF DOMICILE;

18 (2) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY TATTOOS, SCARS OR OTHER DISTINGUISHING  
19 FEATURES ON THE ANIMAL ABUSER'S BODY THAT WOULD ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING  
20 THE ANIMAL ABUSER;

21 (3) A DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE REGISTRANT WAS  
22 CONVICTED, THE DATE OF CONVICTION AND THE SENTENCE IMPOSED; AND

23 (4) ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED PERTINENT BY THE CENTRAL REGISTRY.

24 (B) THE CENTRAL REGISTRY SHALL UTILIZE A STANDARDIZED REGISTRATION  
25 FORM IN A FORMAT DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSIONER. SUCH FORM SHALL BE WRIT-  
26 TEN IN CLEAR AND CONCISE LANGUAGE AND SHALL ADVISE THE REGISTRANT OF HIS  
27 OR HER DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS ARTICLE. A COPY OF THE REGIS-  
28 TRATION FORM SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE REGISTRANT AT THE TIME OF REGIS-  
29 TRATION.

30 6. (A) FOLLOWING A REGISTRANT'S INITIAL REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO THE  
31 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE REGISTRANT SHALL ANNUALLY RENEW HIS OR  
32 HER REGISTRATION WITH THE COUNTY SHERIFF PRIOR TO DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST  
33 OF EACH SUBSEQUENT CALENDAR YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.

34 (B) IF A PERSON HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY CONVICTED OF AN OFFENSE SET  
35 FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (A), (B), (C), (D) OR (E) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS  
36 SECTION, THE REGISTRANT SHALL ANNUALLY RENEW HIS OR HER REGISTRATION  
37 WITH THE CENTRAL REGISTRY PRIOR TO DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST OF EACH SUBSE-  
38 QUENT CALENDAR YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS.

39 7. THE CENTRAL REGISTRY SHALL CHARGE AN ANNUAL FEE OF FIFTY DOLLARS  
40 AND A FEE OF TEN DOLLARS EACH TIME A REGISTRANT REGISTERS ANY CHANGE OF  
41 ADDRESS. THE FEES SHALL BE PAID TO THE COUNTY SHERIFF BY THE REGISTRANT.

42 8. (A) A PERSON REQUIRED TO REGISTER PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS  
43 PROHIBITED FROM, POSSESSING, ADOPTING, OWNING, PURCHASING OR EXERCISING  
44 CONTROL OVER ANY COMPANION ANIMAL FOR THE PERIOD SUCH PERSON IS REQUIRED  
45 TO REGISTER; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COURT MAY ALLOW SUCH PERSON TO  
46 POSSESS, ADOPT, OWN, PURCHASE OR EXERCISE CONTROL OVER A LIMITED NUMBER  
47 OF COMPANION ANIMALS WHERE SUCH PERSON IS DETERMINED TO BE A HOARDER OF  
48 COMPANION ANIMALS.

49 (B) ALL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND PET DEALERS SHALL EXAMINE THE CENTRAL  
50 REGISTRY TO CONFIRM THAT ANY POTENTIAL OWNERS ARE NOT REGISTRANTS. NO  
51 COMPANION ANIMAL SHALL BE SOLD, EXCHANGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED TO AN  
52 ANIMAL ABUSER LISTED ON THE REGISTRY.

53 9. (A) AN ANIMAL ABUSER WHO INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY FAILS TO COMPLY  
54 WITH THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, OR PROVIDES FALSE INFORMATION WHEN  
55 COMPLYING WITH THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION,

1 OR WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION EIGHT OF  
2 THIS SECTION, IS GUILTY OF A FELONY:

3 (1) PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED FOUR YEARS,  
4 OR BY A FINE NOT TO EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, OR BY BOTH SUCH FINE  
5 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR A FIRST OFFENSE; AND

6 (2) PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED FOUR YEARS,  
7 OR BY A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, OR BY BOTH SUCH FINE  
8 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES.

9 (B) ANY ANIMAL SHELTER OR PET DEALER WHO VIOLATES PARAGRAPH (B) OF  
10 SUBDIVISION EIGHT OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE GUILTY OF A VIOLATION AND  
11 SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT TO EXCEED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. IT SHALL BE AN  
12 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE THAT THE ANIMAL SHELTER OR PET DEALER EXAMINED THE  
13 CENTRAL ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY AND THE NAME OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THEY  
14 SOLD OR TRANSFERRED A COMPANION ANIMAL DID NOT APPEAR THEREON.

15 10. EACH COUNTY SHERIFF SHALL MAINTAIN A LOCAL REGISTRY OF ANIMAL  
16 ABUSERS IN THE SHERIFF'S JURISDICTION.

17 11. A COUNTY SHERIFF SHALL FORWARD ALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION  
18 OBTAINED FROM ANIMAL ABUSERS TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF ANIMAL ABUSERS.

19 12. REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF  
20 ANIMAL ABUSERS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH INTERNET  
21 ACCESS, TELEPHONE ACCESS, WRITTEN ACCESS AND IN PERSON ACCESS. ALL OF  
22 THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN AN ANIMAL ABUSER'S REGISTRATION SHALL BE  
23 MADE AVAILABLE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ANIMAL ABUSER'S DRIVER'S  
24 LICENSE NUMBER. RECORDS OF EACH ANIMAL ABUSER'S REGISTRATION SHALL BE  
25 MAINTAINED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE ANIMAL ABUSER IS  
26 REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION.

27 13. NO OFFICIAL, AGENCY, AUTHORIZED PERSON OR ENTITY, WHETHER PUBLIC  
28 OR PRIVATE, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR  
29 DAMAGES FOR ANY DECISION OR ACTION MADE IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSI-  
30 NESS OF THAT OFFICIAL, AGENCY, AUTHORIZED PERSON OR ENTITY, PROVIDED  
31 THAT SUCH OFFICIAL, AGENCY, AUTHORIZED PERSON OR ENTITY ACTED REASONABLY  
32 AND IN GOOD FAITH WITH RESPECT TO SUCH REGISTRY INFORMATION.

33 14. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS MAY BE  
34 NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE PROVISIONS AND INTENT OF THIS SECTION AND TO  
35 ENFORCE REGISTRATION, ALL OF WHICH SHALL HAVE THE FORCE AND EFFECT OF  
36 LAW.

37 15. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

38 (A) "ANIMAL SHELTER" MEANS PUBLIC OR PRIVATELY OWNED ORGANIZATION  
39 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY DULY INCORPORATED HUMANE SOCIETY,  
40 POUND, ANIMAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION OR ANIMAL RESCUE GROUP WHICH MAIN-  
41 TAINS BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES OR OTHER PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HARBOR-  
42 ING ANIMALS WHICH MAY BE STRAY, UNWANTED, LOST, ABANDONED OR ABUSED AND  
43 SEEKS TO FIND APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT HOMES FOR SUCH ANIMALS.

44 (B) "PET DEALER" MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL, PERSON, PARTNERSHIP, FIRM,  
45 CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY WHICH OFFERS ANIMALS FOR SALE OR IS ENGAGED  
46 IN THE SALE, EXCHANGE OR OTHER TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS.

47 16. THIS SECTION SHALL BE EXCLUSIVE AND SHALL PREEMPT ANY CONTRARY  
48 LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE, EXCEPT THAT THIS SECTION SHALL NOT PREEMPT OR  
49 SUPERSEDE LOCAL LAWS OR ORDINANCES WHICH IMPOSE REQUIREMENTS NOT COVERED  
50 UNDER THIS SECTION.

51 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.