

STATE OF NEW YORK

4904

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 6, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to mandating the report-
ing of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians

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

1 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 2 of section 6714 of
2 the education law, as added by chapter 653 of the laws of 2003, are
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (a) When a veterinarian reasonably and in good faith suspects that a
5 companion animal's injury, illness or condition is the result of animal
6 cruelty or a violation of any state or federal law pertaining to the
7 care, treatment, abuse or neglect of a companion animal, the veterinari-
8 an [~~may~~] shall report the incident and disclose records concerning the
9 companion animal's condition and treatment to the police, duly incorpo-
10 rated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, peace officer,
11 district attorney's office, animal control officer, department of agri-
12 culture and markets, other appropriate government agency, or any agent
13 thereof.

14 (b) When a veterinarian reasonably believes that disclosure of records
15 as defined in this section, is necessary to protect the health or
16 welfare of a companion animal, a person or the public, the veterinarian
17 [~~may~~] shall disclose such records to the police, duly incorporated soci-
18 ety for the prevention of cruelty to animals, peace officer, animal
19 control officer, department of agriculture and markets, other appropri-
20 ate government agency, or any agent thereof.

21 § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
22 have become a law.

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

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