

STATE OF NEW YORK

5023

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 22, 2021

Introduced by Sen. GIANARIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

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

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, 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~~] in violation of [any state or federal law pertaining to
7 the care, treatment, abuse or neglect of a companion animal] section
8 three hundred fifty-one, three hundred fifty-three or three hundred
9 fifty-three-a of the agriculture and markets law, the veterinarian [~~may~~]
10 shall report the incident and disclose records concerning the companion
11 animal's condition and treatment to [~~the police, duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, peace officer, district~~
12 ~~attorney's office, animal control officer, department of agriculture and~~
13 ~~markets, other appropriate government agency, or any agent thereof]~~ any
14 officer or agent authorized pursuant to sections three hundred seventy-
15 one and three hundred seventy-three of the agriculture and markets law
16 to respond to and investigate complaints of animal cruelty.

17
18 (b) When a veterinarian reasonably believes that disclosure of records
19 as defined in this section, is necessary to protect the health or
20 welfare of a companion animal, a person or the public, the veterinarian
21 may disclose such records to [~~the police, duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, peace officer, animal control~~
22 ~~officer, department of agriculture and markets, other appropriate~~
23 ~~government agency, or any agent thereof]~~ any officer or agent authorized
24 pursuant to sections three hundred seventy-one and three hundred seven-
25

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

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1 ty-three of the agriculture and markets law to respond to and investi-
2 gate complaints of animal cruelty. Every such officer or agent shall
3 submit annually to the legislature a report on the incidents and records
4 disclosed to them as described in this section. Such report shall
5 include, but not be limited to, the total number of reports made to
6 officers and agents and any actions taken on such reports.

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