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:

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

(a) When a veterinarian reasonably and in good faith suspects that a companion animal's injury, illness or condition is the result of animal cruelty [~~or a~~] **in** violation of [~~any state or federal law pertaining to the care, treatment, abuse or neglect of a companion animal~~] **section three hundred fifty-one, three hundred fifty-three or three hundred fifty-three-a of the agriculture and markets law**, the veterinarian [~~may~~] **shall** report the incident and disclose records concerning the companion animal's condition and treatment to [~~the police, duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, peace officer, district attorney's office, animal control officer, department of agriculture and markets, other appropriate government agency, or any agent thereof~~] **any officer or agent authorized pursuant to sections three hundred seventy-one and three hundred seventy-three of the agriculture and markets law to respond to and investigate complaints of animal cruelty**.

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

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

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

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