STATE OF NEW YORK

5654

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2025

Introduced by Sen. MURRAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in regard to enhancing penalties for aggravated animal abuse; and to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to allowing aggravated animal abuse to be considered for bail

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

Section 1. Section 353 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 458 of the laws of 1985, the opening paragraph as amended by chapter 523 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

§ 353. Overdriving[~~, torturing and injuring animals;~~] **and** failure to provide proper sustenance **for animals**. A person who overdrives, overloads, [~~tortures or cruelly beats or unjustifiably injures, maims, mutilates or kills any animal, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to himself or to another,~~] or deprives any animal of necessary sustenance, food or drink, or neglects or refuses to furnish it such sustenance or drink, or causes, procures or permits any animal to be overdriven, overloaded, tortured, cruelly beaten, or unjustifiably injured, maimed, mutilated or killed, or to be deprived of necessary food or drink, or who wilfully sets on foot, instigates, engages in, or in any way furthers any act of cruelty to any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and for purposes of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 160.10 of the criminal procedure law, shall be treated as a misdemeanor defined in the penal law.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit or interfere with any properly conducted scientific tests, experiments or investigations, involving the use of living animals, performed or conducted in laboratories or institutions, which are approved for these purposes by the state commissioner of health. The state commissioner of health shall prescribe the rules under which such approvals shall be granted, including therein standards regarding the care and treatment of any such animals. Such rules shall be published and copies thereof conspicuously

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

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posted in each such laboratory or institution. The state commissioner of health or [~~his~~] **such commissioner's** duly authorized representative shall have the power to inspect such laboratories or institutions to [~~insure~~] **ensure** compliance with such rules and standards. Each such approval may be revoked at any time for failure to comply with such rules and in any case the approval shall be limited to a period not exceeding one year.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 353-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 118 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

1. A person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals when[~~,~~]**: (a)** with no justifiable purpose, [~~he or she intentionally kills or intentionally causes serious physical injury to a companion animal with aggravated cruelty. For purposes of this section, "aggravated cruelty" shall mean conduct which: (i) is intended to cause extreme physical pain; or (ii) is done or carried out in an especially depraved or sadistic manner~~] **such person tortures or cruelly beats or unjustifiably injures, maims, mutilates or kills any animal, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to such person or to another; or**

(b) such person violates section three hundred fifty-three of this article while released on recognizance for violating any order of protection.

§ 3. Paragraphs (t) and (u) of subdivision 4 of section 510.10 of the criminal procedure law, paragraph (t) as amended and paragraph (u) as added by section 2 of subpart B of part UU of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, are amended and a new paragraph (v) is added to read as follows:

(t) any felony or class A misdemeanor involving harm to an identifiable person or property, or any charge of criminal possession of a firearm as defined in section 265.01-b of the penal law, where such charge arose from conduct occurring while the defendant was released on [~~his or her~~] **such principal's** own recognizance, released under conditions, or had yet to be arraigned after the issuance of a desk appearance ticket for a separate felony or class A misdemeanor involving harm to an identifiable person or property, or any charge of criminal possession of a firearm as defined in section 265.01-b of the penal law, provided, however, that the prosecutor must show reasonable cause to believe that the defendant committed the instant crime and any underlying crime. For the purposes of this subparagraph, any of the underlying crimes need not be a qualifying offense as defined in this subdivision. For the purposes of this paragraph, "harm to an identifiable person or property" shall include but not be limited to theft of or damage to property. However, based upon a review of the facts alleged in the accusatory instrument, if the court determines that such theft is negligible and does not appear to be in furtherance of other criminal activity, the principal shall be released on [~~his or her~~] **such principal's** own recognizance or under appropriate non-monetary conditions; [~~or~~]

(u) criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree as defined in subdivision three of section 265.02 of the penal law or criminal sale of a firearm to a minor as defined in section 265.16 of the penal law[~~,~~]**; or**

(v) aggravated cruelty to animals as defined in section three hundred fifty-three-a of the agriculture and markets law.

§ 4. Subparagraphs (xx) and (xxi) of paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 530.20 of the criminal procedure law, subparagraph (xx) as amended and subparagraph (xxi) as added by section 4 of subpart C of part UU of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, are amended and a new paragraph (xxii) is added to read as follows:

(xx) any felony or class A misdemeanor involving harm to an identifiable person or property, or any charge of criminal possession of a firearm as defined in section 265.01-b of the penal law where such charge arose from conduct occurring while the defendant was released on [~~his or her~~] such principal's own recognizance, released under conditions, or had yet to be arraigned after the issuance of a desk appearance ticket for a separate felony or class A misdemeanor involving harm to an identifiable person or property, provided, however, that the prosecutor must show reasonable cause to believe that the defendant committed the instant crime and any underlying crime. For the purposes of this subparagraph, any of the underlying crimes need not be a qualifying offense as defined in this subdivision. For the purposes of this paragraph, "harm to an identifiable person or property" shall include but not be limited to theft of or damage to property. However, based upon a review of the facts alleged in the accusatory instrument, if the court determines that such theft is negligible and does not appear to be in furtherance of other criminal activity, the principal shall be released on [~~his or her~~] such principal's own recognizance or under appropriate non-monetary conditions; [~~or~~]

(xxi) criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree as defined in subdivision three of section 265.02 of the penal law or criminal sale of a firearm to a minor as defined in section 265.16 of the penal law[~~.~~]; or

(xxii) aggravated cruelty to animals as defined in section three hundred fifty-three-a of the agriculture and markets law.

§ 5. Paragraphs (t) and (u) of subdivision 4 of section 530.40 of the criminal procedure law, paragraph (t) as amended and paragraph (u) as added by section 4 of subpart B of part UU of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, are amended and a new paragraph (v) is added to read as follows:

(t) any felony or class A misdemeanor involving harm to an identifiable person or property, or any charge of criminal possession of a firearm as defined in section 265.01-b of the penal law, where such charge arose from conduct occurring while the defendant was released on [~~his or her~~] such principal's own recognizance, released under conditions, or had yet to be arraigned after the issuance of a desk appearance ticket for a separate felony or class A misdemeanor involving harm to an identifiable person or property, or any charge of criminal possession of a firearm as defined in section 265.01-b of the penal law, provided, however, that the prosecutor must show reasonable cause to believe that the defendant committed the instant crime and any underlying crime. For the purposes of this subparagraph, any of the underlying crimes need not be a qualifying offense as defined in this subdivision. For the purposes of this paragraph, "harm to an identifiable person or property" shall include but not be limited to theft of or damage to property. However, based upon a review of the facts alleged in the accusatory instrument, if the court determines that such theft is negligible and does not appear to be in furtherance of other criminal activity, the principal shall be released on [~~his or her~~] such principal's own recognizance or under appropriate non-monetary conditions; [~~or~~]

(u) criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree as defined in subdivision three of section 265.02 of the penal law or criminal sale of a firearm to a minor as defined in section 265.16 of the penal law[~~.~~]; or

(v) aggravated cruelty to animals as defined in section three hundred fifty-three-a of the agriculture and markets law.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.