STATE OF NEW YORK

9427

IN SENATE

March 11, 2026

Introduced by Sens. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK, WEIK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law and the executive law, in relation to threats or harm to animals as a means of coercion or coercive control

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 135.60 of the penal law, as amended by section 1 of part NN of chapter 55 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

1. Cause physical injury to a person **or animal**; or

§ 2. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (o) of subdivision 3 of section 575 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 23 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(i) Within amounts appropriated for such purpose, the office shall contract with an organization designated by the federal department of health and human services to coordinate statewide improvements within local communities, social services systems, and programming regarding the prevention and intervention of domestic violence in New York state to mutually develop a training program as described in this paragraph. The office and such organization shall be responsible for providing such training to psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers who are licensed in the state of New York, so that such individuals may conduct court ordered forensic evaluations, involving child custody and visitation pursuant to paragraph (a-3) of subdivision one of section two hundred forty of the domestic relations law; for consulting with domestic violence service providers and representative organizations in the field of domestic violence when such training is provided in their communities; and for reviewing and updating training topics at least once every two years. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, a review of: relevant statutes; case law and psychological definitions of domestic violence; coercive control**, including through the use of threats or harm to animals,** and child abuse; the dynamics and effects of domestic violence and child abuse, including but not limited

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

LBD15135-01-6

to, emotional, financial, physical, technological and sexual abuse; the barriers and fears associated with reporting domestic violence and child abuse and why victims may not have documented evidence of abuse; tactics commonly used by one party to induce fear in another party or child, including verbal, emotional, psychological, and/or economic abuse, isolating techniques, coercive control, **including through the use of threats or harm to animals,** and monitoring of a partner's location and activities; litigation abuse and demands for custody or joint custody in order to pressure the partner to return or punish the partner for leaving; trauma, particularly as it relates to sexual abuse and the risks posed to children and the long-term dangers and impacts imposed by the presence of adverse childhood experiences; the increased risk of escalating violence that occurs during child custody proceedings; and the danger of basing child custody decisions on claims that a child's deficient or negative relationship with a parent is caused by the other parent.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.