



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2010

LCO No. 3605

HB0504103605HDO

Offered by:

REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.

SEN. MUSTO, 22nd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5041

File No. 310

Cal. No. 164

**"AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS-REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE
AND ANIMAL CRUELTY."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) Any animal control
4 officer appointed under section 22-328 of the general statutes or
5 municipal animal control officer appointed under section 22-331 of the
6 general statutes, who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that an
7 animal observed in the course of employment is being or has been
8 harmed, neglected or cruelly treated in violation of section 53-247 of
9 the general statutes and files a petition with the Superior Court under
10 section 22-329a of the general statutes, shall make a written report to
11 the Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of
12 this section.

13 (b) The report shall be made by the officer as soon as practicable, but
14 not later than forty-eight hours after such officer has filed the petition.

15 Each report required under this section shall contain: (1) The address
16 where the animal was observed and the names and addresses of the
17 owner of the animal or other person responsible for care of the animal;
18 (2) the name of the animal, if known, and a description of the animal;
19 (3) the nature and extent of the harm, neglect or cruelty to the animal;
20 (4) the approximate date and time such harm, neglect or cruelty
21 occurred, if known; (5) any information concerning any previous harm
22 to, neglect of or cruelty toward the animal; (6) the circumstances in
23 which such harm, neglect or cruelty came to be known by the officer;
24 and (7) the name of every person suspected to be responsible for such
25 harm, neglect or cruelty.

26 (c) Not later than November 1, 2010, and monthly thereafter, the
27 Commissioner of Agriculture shall send a report to the Commissioner
28 of Children and Families containing all of the information received
29 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during the preceding month.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) Not more than one week
31 after receiving each report pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1 of
32 this act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall determine if
33 any address where any animal was harmed, neglected or cruelly
34 treated is an address where there is an open investigation of a child for
35 whom there has been filed a report of abuse or neglect under section
36 17a-101a of the general statutes. If the commissioner determines that
37 there is an open investigation of a child at the same address where an
38 animal was harmed, neglected or cruelly treated, the commissioner or
39 the commissioner's designee shall inform the investigator assigned by
40 the Department of Children and Families to such child's case of the
41 harm to, neglect of or cruelty toward the animal. The commissioner
42 shall make the information provided to the investigator part of the
43 record kept by the department on such child and such information
44 shall be taken into consideration in conducting an investigation. The
45 investigation may include a home visit at such address to observe the
46 child or such child's siblings and the making of any findings on behalf
47 of the department concerning such child.

48 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) Any employee of the
49 Department of Children and Families who has reasonable cause to
50 suspect or believe that an animal observed in the course of
51 employment is being or has been harmed, neglected or cruelly treated
52 in violation of section 53-247 of the general statutes shall make an
53 anonymous oral report by telephone or in person to the Commissioner
54 of Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, except
55 that such report shall not be required if the employee determines that
56 making such report will interfere with the performance of the
57 employee's child welfare duties set forth in chapter 319a of the general
58 statutes.

59 (b) A report made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be
60 made as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after
61 the employee has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that an animal
62 has been harmed, neglected or cruelly treated, and shall contain the
63 following, if known: (1) The address where the animal was observed
64 and the names and addresses of the animal and owner of the animal or
65 other person responsible for its care; (2) the name of the animal, if
66 known, and a description of the animal; (3) the nature and extent of the
67 harm to, neglect of or cruelty toward the animal; and (4) the
68 approximate date and time such harm, neglect or cruelty was
69 suspected.

70 (c) Not later than October 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the
71 Commissioner of Children and Families shall, within available
72 appropriations, develop and implement training regarding the
73 identification of harm to, neglect of and cruelty toward animals and its
74 relationship to child welfare case practice.

75 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) The Commissioner of
76 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, make
77 available to all animal control officers training regarding the accurate
78 and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section