



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Amendment

LCO No. 3464

HB0504103464HDO

Offered by:
REP. URBAN, 43rd 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 in harm, neglected or
8 cruelly treated in violation of section 53-247 of the general statutes and
9 files a petition with the Superior Court under section 22-329a of the
10 general statutes, shall make a written report to the Commissioner of
11 Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

12 (b) The report shall be made by the officer as soon as practicable, but
13 not later than forty-eight hours after such officer has filed the petition.
14 Each report required under this section shall contain: (1) The address
15 where the animal was observed and the names and addresses of the

16 owner of the animal or other person responsible for care of the animal;
17 (2) the name of the animal, if known, and a description of the animal;
18 (3) the nature and extent of the harm, neglect or cruelty to the animal;
19 (4) the approximate date and time such harm, neglect or cruelty
20 occurred, if known; (5) any information concerning any previous harm
21 to, neglect of or cruelty toward the animal; (6) the circumstances in
22 which such harm, neglect or cruelty came to be known by the officer;
23 and (7) the name of every person suspected to be responsible for such
24 harm, neglect or cruelty.

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

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

47 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) Any employee of the
48 Department of Children and Families who has reasonable cause to

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

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

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

74 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) The Commissioner of
 75 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, make
 76 available to all animal control officers training regarding the accurate
 77 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