



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 6187

LCO No. 5431



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE
THE SUBJECT OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) In any prosecution
2 under section 53-247 of the general statutes, or any proceeding in the
3 criminal session of the Superior Court regarding the welfare or
4 custody of an animal that was the subject of a violation of section 53-
5 247 of the general statutes, the court may order, or counsel for any
6 party may request, that a separate advocate be appointed to represent
7 the interests of the animal, in which case the court shall appoint an
8 advocate from a list provided by the Commissioner of Agriculture
9 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

10 (b) The advocate shall perform an independent investigation of the
11 case and may present at any hearing information pertinent to the
12 court's determination of the best interests of the animal. The advocate
13 shall be subject to cross-examination upon the request of counsel for
14 any party. The advocate shall not be required to be an attorney-at-law
15 but shall be knowledgeable about the needs and protection of animals
16 and relevant court procedures. In performing an investigation under

17 this section, the advocate shall consider any prior arrangements made
18 for the animal, including, but not limited to, the existence of a trust to
19 provide for the care of the animal created under section 45a-489a of the
20 general statutes, a restraining order issued under section 46b-15 of the
21 general statutes that contains a provision to protect the animal, or a
22 protective order issued under section 46b-38c of the general statutes
23 that contains a provision to protect the animal.

24 (c) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall maintain a list of persons
25 with expertise in animal welfare or legal advocacy to serve on a
26 voluntary basis as advocates under this section. Such list may include
27 students and faculty of law schools, attorneys and veterinarians
28 licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 384 of the
29 general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a process for appointing an advocate to investigate and advocate for the welfare of an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.; REP. HENNESSY, 127th Dist.
REP. MEGNA, 97th Dist.

H.B. 6187