



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 53

LCO No. 2964



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT REQUIRING VETERINARIANS TO REPORT CASES OF
SUSPECTED AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY AND AUTHORIZING
THE REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ANIMAL CRUELTY.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) Except as provided in
2 subsection (b) of this section, any veterinarian licensed pursuant to
3 chapter 384 of the general statutes who, while acting in a professional
4 capacity, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is the subject of
5 cruelty or neglect in violation of section 53-247 of the general statutes
6 may report the suspected violation to the Commissioner of Agriculture
7 or the commissioner's designee. Any veterinarian who makes a report
8 pursuant to this subsection may appear and testify in a judicial or
9 administrative proceeding concerning the condition or care of the
10 animal.

11 (b) Any veterinarian licensed pursuant to chapter 384 of the general
12 statutes who, while acting in a professional capacity, has reasonable
13 cause to suspect that an animal is the subject of a malicious and
14 intentional maiming, mutilation, torturing, wounding or killing in
15 violation of subsection (b) of section 53-247 of the general statutes shall

16 report the suspected violation to the Commissioner of Agriculture or
17 the commissioner's designee. Any veterinarian who makes a report
18 pursuant to this subsection may appear and testify in a judicial or
19 administrative proceeding concerning the condition or care of the
20 animal.

21 (c) Any veterinarian who reports or testifies pursuant to this section
22 shall be immune from any criminal and civil liability and professional
23 disciplinary action that may otherwise result from such actions. Such
24 immunity from liability for the release of confidential information shall
25 apply only to the release of information to the Superior Court, the
26 Department of Agriculture, any animal control officer, a state's attorney
27 or a law enforcement agency involved in any applicable investigation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To protect the health of animals and afford protection to veterinarians who report cases of suspected aggravated cruelty and neglect to the state.

[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: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.

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