



Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Senator Elder Vogel Jr.

Chairman

Michael Rader, Executive Director

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October 15, 2012

Amendment to House Bill: 2630

Printer's Number: 4143

Amendment Number: A13740

Prime Sponsor: Vogel

SYNOPSIS

Amends bill, providing for prohibited means of destroying animals, for exclusions, for exclusive methods of euthanasia for small domestic animals, for eliminating the use of carbon monoxide systems and for use of drugs by animal protection organizations, for licensing; providing for enforcement; and further providing for penalties.

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Amendment A13740 provides definitions of, "normal agricultural operation", "small domestic animal" and "animal protection organization". Provides for prohibited means of destroying animals by unacceptable agents published by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines, drowning, chloroform, ether, halothane, fluothane or carbon monoxide from any source. Provides for required methods which shall be methods approved for use by AVMA. Provides for exclusive methods of euthanasia for small domestic animals which are applicable to rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, rats, hamsters, ferrets, birds, reptiles, amphibians and all cats and dogs to be an injectable solution approved for such use by the Food and Drug Administration. Provides authorization for the Board of Veterinary Medicine to provide a waiver of the exclusive methods of euthanasia for small domestic animals in the event that the approved drug becomes unavailable, but that waiver shall be restricted to the use of only

acceptable methods prescribed by the standard of care defined by the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Provides an exemption from the exclusive method if the small domestic animal poses an imminent threat to human or animal life, but under no circumstances shall the prohibited means of euthanasia be used. Provides the authorization to use a tranquilizing drug prior to euthanasia commencing. Repeals the existing methods and agents of euthanasia. Provides for an exemption for agricultural operations from the provisions of the act. Provides for additional exclusions from the exclusive method provision of the act for; persons licensed under the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act and research facilities, these exclusions only permit the use of acceptable methods published in the AVMA guidelines on euthanasia, excluding the prohibited methods. Repeals the "Use of carbon monoxide systems". provides for animal protection organization use of drugs. Establishes authorizations for such organizations for the purpose of purchasing, possessing and administering drugs approved for euthanasia. Authorizes the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to issue authorization to applicants and prohibits the administration of euthanasia by any person other than a licensed euthanasia technician, providing for automatic revocation of authorization upon the suspension or revocation of a kennel license under the Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982). Provides for regulation and enforcement by the State Board Veterinary Medicine ("Board") and requires the board to approve drugs used for euthanasia. Requires the Board to regulate and provide for the discipline of euthanasia technicians. Provides for the licensure of euthanasia technicians and permits the board to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Agriculture to act as their agent to inspect and monitor animal protection organizations. Authorizes the State Board of Veterinary



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Medicine to issue a euthanasia technician license to an applicant who satisfies eligibility requirements including, but not limited to; “adequate knowledge of the potential hazards and proper techniques”, “is a euthanasia technician registered or licensed under the laws of another state...which has requirements substantially similar” to this act and the successful completion of a euthanasia technician certification course offered by; the National Animal Control Association, Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania and any other courses approved by the Board. Provides for the disclosure of methods of euthanasia used on small domestic animals. Requires the decommissioning of existing euthanasia devices which are prohibited by the act. Authorizes the Board to enforce the provisions of the act. Provides for fines and civil penalties. Provides for fines and civil penalties collected through the enforcement of this act to be into the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account .

Effective Date is as follows:

Numbering and amendment of Sect. 1: 90 Days

The remainder of the Act: 180 Days

CURRENT LAW

The Animal Destruction Method Authorization Law establishes the prohibited means and methods of destruction of animals. The act provides that carbon monoxide, chloroform, ether and other similar substances may be used for the euthanasia of animals, providing guidelines for the administration of those substances and providing limited license for humane society organizations or animal control organizations to purchase or possess approved drugs for the euthanasia of animals.