

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: Senate Bill 626

Printer's No.: 633

Sponsor: Senator Browne

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends section 5511 of the Crimes Code, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, relating to cruelty to animals, to prohibit the use of live animals or fowl for targets at trap shoots or block shoots.

Summary: Under new subsection (c.1) a person commits a summary offense if the person willfully organizes, operates or conducts a trap shoot or block shoot in which live animals or fowl are used as targets. This prohibition does not apply to any activity permitted under the Game and Wildlife Code, Title 34 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, and applicable regulations.

Definitions

“Fowl” is defined as a bird, except game birds as defined and regulated under the Game and Wildlife Code.

“Trap shoot” or “block shoot” is defined as an event during which participants shoot or attempt to shoot targets that are launched or otherwise immediately presented to the shooter with electronic or mechanical assistance from a fixed location or locations within a predefined shooting field; or affixed to a rope, chain or other tethering device when presented to the shooter.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: This legislation is often referred to as the “pigeon shoot bill” though it is not limited to pigeon shoots.

Legislative history

This legislation has been introduced for several legislative sessions. During the 2009-2010 session, this legislation was introduced as Senate Bill 843 and House Bill 1411.