

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: House Bill 2026

Printer's No.: 3011

Sponsor: Rep. Maher

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends section 5511.2 of the Crimes Code, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, relating to police animals, to make torturing a police animal a felony of the second degree.

Summary: Section 5511.2(b) makes it a third degree felony for any person to willfully or maliciously torture, mutilate, injure, disable, poison or kill a police animal. The bill increases the grading of this offense to a felony of the second degree.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: The House of Representatives passed House Bill 2026 on March 18, 2014 by a vote of 201 to 0.

Current law

Subsection (a) of section 5511.2 makes it a third degree felony for any person to willfully or maliciously taunt, torment, tease, beat, kick or strike a police animal. Subsection (b) makes it a third degree felony to willfully or maliciously torture, mutilate, disable, poison or kill a police animal. While subsection (b) prohibits more serious acts, the two subsections are graded the same. House Bill 2026 increases the grading to a second degree felony for the acts prohibited under subsection (b).

Similar legislation

The Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee reported from committee Senate Bill 1261 amending the Dog Law, 1982 Act 225, to increase the grading from a third degree felony to a second degree felony for willfully or maliciously torturing, mutilating, injuring, disabling, poisoning or killing any dog, including any search or rescue or detection dog, used by any municipal, county or State police or sheriff's department or fire department, when the dog is being used in the performance of the duties of the department.

In addition, Senate Bill 1260 is the same as House Bill 2026. Senate Bill 1260 is before the Senate Judiciary Committee.