



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### Senate Bill 69 Printer's No. 50

Prime Sponsor: Senator Eichelberger  
Committee: Judiciary

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

This bill amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 22 (Detectives and Private Police) to extend the animal cruelty statute to horses.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Under current law, a person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he willfully and maliciously kills, maims, mutilates, tortures or disfigures any dog or cat. This bill would add "equine animal" to scope of the animal cruelty statute. The bill defines "torture" to include breaking or severely impairing limbs, inflicting severe or prolonged pain from burning, crushing or wounding, and causing a substantial loss in body weight by prolonged deprivation of food or sustenance.

The bill requires the Humane Society Police Officer Advisory Board to develop guidelines for the enforcement of this law.

Amendment A00009: The amendment makes the definition of "torture" more specific by quantifying the loss of body mass as more than one-third of the animal's normal body mass. The amendment also strikes out the entire provision at the bottom of page three and top of page four regarding guidelines to assist law enforcement officers and the courts.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill is effective in sixty days.

#### **BILL HISTORY:**

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 1/19/2017