

SENATE, No. 303

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires municipal court to hear certain violations of animal cruelty statutes within 14 days of the summons date.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning violations of the animal cruelty statutes and
2 supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Notwithstanding any law, or rule or regulation adopted
8 pursuant thereto, to the contrary, any person cited in violation of
9 R.S.4:22-17 or subsections a. or c. of R.S.4:22-26 shall be issued a
10 summons to appear in municipal court either (1) no later than 14
11 days after the date on which the summons is issued, or (2) on the
12 next scheduled municipal court date in the event the municipal
13 court convenes less frequently than biweekly. The summons shall
14 specify a court appearance date either (1) within 14 days of the date
15 on which the summons is issued, or (2) on the next scheduled
16 municipal court date in the event the municipal court convenes less
17 frequently than biweekly, shall be signed by the clerk of the
18 municipal court, and the case shall be placed on the docket for the
19 municipal court for that date.

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21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill requires that a person cited in violation of R.S.4:22-17
27 or subsections a. or c. of R.S.4:22-26 be issued a summons to
28 appear in municipal court either (1) no later than 14 days after the
29 date on which the summons is issued, or (2) on the next scheduled
30 municipal court date in the event the municipal court convenes less
31 frequently than biweekly. The summons must specify an
32 appearance date either (1) within the 14 days after the date on
33 which the summons is issued, or (2) on the next scheduled
34 municipal court date in the event the municipal court convenes less
35 frequently than biweekly, and be signed by the clerk of the court.
36 The bill also requires the case be placed on the docket for the
37 municipal court for the appearance date on the summons.

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39 R.S.4:22-17 and subsections a. and c. of R.S.4:22-26 are the
40 State laws dealing with the criminal and civil penalties,
41 respectively, for the overdriving, overloading, torturing and
42 tormenting of animals, including the deprivation of necessary
43 sustenance, unnecessarily or cruelly beating or otherwise abusing
44 the animal, needlessly mutilating or killing the animal, and
45 otherwise inflicting unnecessary cruelty upon the animal or
46 unnecessarily failing to provide it with proper food, drink, shelter or
47 protection from the weather.

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48 The Department of Health and Senior Services defines proper
food, drink, shelter or protection from the weather in regulations

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1 codified in Title 29 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.