

ASSEMBLY, No. 1023

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes placement of involved animal with animal welfare agency or similar entity pending adjudication of alleged animal cruelty violation when not adjudicated in seven days.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning housing and care of animals involved in animal
2 cruelty violations and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Animal rescue organization" means an animal rescue
10 organization as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-
11 15.1).

12 "Animal rescue organization facility" means an animal rescue
13 organization facility as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941, c.151
14 (C.4:19-15.1).

15 "Animal welfare organization" means a humane society or other
16 group or organization dedicated to the care and protection of
17 animals. "Animal welfare organization" may include, but is not
18 limited to, a group or organization that operates an animal rescue
19 organization facility, foster home, or shelter.

20 "Foster home" means a foster home as defined in section 1 of
21 P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1).

22 "Shelter" means a shelter as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941,
23 c.151 (C.4:19-15.1).

24
25 2. a. Whenever an animal is confiscated from its owner
26 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1995, c.255 (C.4:22-26.1) or any other
27 provision of chapter 19 or 22 of Title 4 of the Revised Statutes, and
28 held pending adjudication of an alleged animal cruelty violation
29 under chapter 19 or 22 of Title 4 of the Revised Statutes, the animal
30 shall be placed by the court in the custody of an animal welfare
31 organization, animal rescue organization, or operator of a foster
32 home or shelter on the seventh day after the confiscation of the
33 animal, if the owner has not resumed custody of the animal.

34 b. The animal welfare organization, animal rescue
35 organization, or operator of a foster home or shelter shall properly
36 house and care for the animal until adjudication of the alleged
37 animal cruelty violations and final disposition of the animal by the
38 court. If the animal is placed in the custody of a shelter and
39 remains at the shelter, the shelter may not offer the animal for
40 adoption or euthanize the animal until seven days after the final
41 disposition of the animal by the court.

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43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

This bill provides for an animal welfare organization, animal rescue organization, or operator of a foster home or shelter to take custody of an animal confiscated from its owner and being held pending adjudication of an alleged animal cruelty violation. Specifically the bill provides that the animal would be placed in the custody of an animal welfare organization, animal rescue organization, or operator of a foster home or shelter on the seventh day after it is confiscated, if the owner has not resumed custody of the animal. The animal welfare organization, animal rescue organization, or operator of a foster home or shelter would properly house and care for the animal until adjudication of the alleged animal cruelty violation and final disposition of the animal by the court. Finally, the bill provides that if the animal is placed in the custody of a shelter and remains at the shelter, the shelter would not be able to offer the animal for adoption or euthanize the animal until seven days after the final disposition of the animal by the court.