

SENATE, No. 1703

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Enhances penalty for failure to stop and report hitting, running over, or injuring of certain animals with motor vehicle where animal is killed.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/12/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning hitting, running over, or injuring certain
2 animals with a motor vehicle, and amending P.L.1939, c.315.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1939, c.315 (C.4:22-25.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. **【Each】** A person operating a motor vehicle who shall
10 knowingly hit, run over, or cause injury to a cat, dog, horse, or
11 cattle shall stop at once, ascertain the extent of injury, and report
12 the incident, the name, address, and driver's license number of the
13 person operating the motor vehicle, the registration number of the
14 motor vehicle, and the location of the injured animal to the nearest
15 police station, police officer, municipal humane law enforcement
16 officer, chief humane law enforcement officer, or humane law
17 enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of cruelty
18 to animals**【 , and give his name, address, operator's license and**
19 **registration number, and also give the location of the injured**
20 **animal】.**

21 (cf: P.L.2017, c.331, s.12)

22

23 2. Section 2 of P.L.1939, c.315 (C.4:22-25.2) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 2. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of
26 section 1 of P.L.1939, c.315 (C.4:22-25.1) shall be guilty of a petty
27 disorderly persons offense, provided that the cat, dog, horse, or
28 cattle hit, run over, or injured by the motor vehicle is not killed. If
29 a person violates the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1939, c.315
30 (C.4:22-25.1) and the cat, dog, horse, or cattle dies, the person shall
31 be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

32 (cf: P.L.1995, c.355, s.7)

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34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 Under current law, section 1 of P.L.1939, c.315 (C.4:22-25.1)
40 provides that a person operating a motor vehicle who knowingly
41 hits, runs over, or causes injury to a cat, dog, horse, or cattle is
42 required to stop and report certain information. Failure to do so is a
43 petty disorderly persons offense.

44 This bill clarifies that a person operating a motor vehicle who
45 knowingly hits, runs over, or causes injury to a cat, dog, horse, or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 cattle shall stop at once, ascertain the extent of injury, and report
2 the incident, the name, address, and driver's license number of the
3 person operating the motor vehicle, the registration number of the
4 motor vehicle, and the location of the injured animal to the nearest
5 police station, police officer, municipal humane law enforcement
6 officer, chief humane law enforcement officer, or humane law
7 enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of cruelty
8 to animals. If the person fails to stop and make the required report,
9 the person would be guilty of a petty disorderly persons offense as
10 provided under current law. The bill increases the level of criminal
11 offense for a violation of section 1 of P.L.1939, c.315 (C.4:22-25.1)
12 to a disorderly persons offense if the cat, dog, horse, or cattle that is
13 hit, run over, or injured by the motor vehicle dies.

14 A petty disorderly persons offense is punishable by up to 30 days
15 imprisonment, up to a \$500 fine, or both. A disorderly persons
16 offense is punishable by up to six months imprisonment, up to a
17 \$1,000 fine, or both.