

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 121, *approved June 20, 1997*
Senate, No. 1213

1 AN ACT concerning confiscated animals and supplementing Title 4 of
2 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. The costs of sheltering, caring for, or treating any animal that
8 has been confiscated from a person arrested pursuant to the provisions
9 of R.S.4:22-47 by an agent of the New Jersey Society for the
10 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or any other person authorized to
11 make an arrest pursuant to article 2 of chapter 22 of Title 4 of the
12 Revised Statutes, until the animal is adjudged forfeited or until the
13 animal is returned to the owner, shall be borne by the owner of the
14 animal.

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16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

21 This bill would require a person who has been arrested in
22 connection with the fighting or baiting of animals to bear the costs of
23 shelter, care, and treatment of any other animals not used for such
24 purposes, owned by that person that have been confiscated. Current
25 law requires the confiscation and forfeiture of any animal engaged or
26 used in violation of R.S.4:22-47 or subsections e., f., g., u., v., or w.
27 of R.S.4:22-26. The costs of shelter, care, treatment, including
28 veterinary care and treatment of those animals must be borne by the
29 owner of the seized animal. The law also allows the confiscation of
30 animals present at the building or place where the baiting or fighting
31 takes place or where preparations are being made for such an
32 exhibition. Often when a person is arrested in connection with the
33 fighting or baiting of animals, other domestic or farm animals are
34 confiscated as well. This bill would clarify that the costs of shelter,
35 care, and treatment of those animals must be paid by their owner.

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3 Requires costs of care of confiscated animal to be borne by its owner.