



Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Senator Elder Vogel Jr.

Chairman

Michael Rader, Executive Director

Senate Box 203047 • State Capitol Building • Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-3076 • Fax: 717-772-2756

March 31, 2014

Senate Bill: 1261

Printers Number: 1783

Prime Sponsor: SMITH

SYNOPSIS

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, further providing for dogs used for law enforcement.

BILL SUMMARY

The bill increases the maximum penalty for torturing or killing a K-9 officer to a felony of the second degree, allowing for a prison term of up to 10 years and a fine of \$25,000. Such a penalty would more closely mirror federal law, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years and a \$1,000 fine.

Effective Date: 60 days

CURRENT LAW

Currently, an individual convicted of torturing or killing a K-9 officer can be charged with a felony of the third degree, which carries a prison sentence of no more than seven years and a fine of \$15,000. The same charge applies to an individual who taunts or otherwise interferes with a K-9 officer.



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March 31, 2014

Senate Bill: 1301

Printers Number: 1866

Prime Sponsor: VOGEL

SYNOPSIS

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers of department and local authorities, further providing for promulgation of rules and regulations by department.

BILL SUMMARY

The bill restores the exemption which had previously been provided to farm vehicles exempt from registration. The Federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) ensures Pennsylvania will not lose federal funds if this exemption is restored.

Effective Date: 60 days

CURRENT LAW/HISTORY

Prior to 2010, both farm vehicles operating under a biennial certificate of exemption and their drivers were exempt from Pennsylvania's intrastate motor carrier safety regulations. However, in April 2010, Pennsylvania revamped its regulations to mirror the commercial trucking standards imposed under the federal motor carrier safety regulations. Pennsylvania's overhaul of its regulations was predominantly prompted by the discovery of "deficiencies" in regulation during a federal audit conducted in 2007 and fear of loss of federal transportation funds if the "deficiencies" were not corrected. As part of the overhaul of its regulations, Pennsylvania eliminated the exemption previously provided to farm vehicles exempt from registration. The 2012 amendments to the Vehicle Code essentially restored the exemptions from state motor carrier safety regulations provided to farm vehicle drivers prior to 2010, but did not restore the exemptions provided to registration-exempt farm vehicles. There was no pressing safety concern to justify 2010's elimination of the exemption from state regulations provided to registration-exempt farm vehicles.



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March 31, 2014

Senate Bill: 1188

Printers Number: 1756

Prime Sponsor: VOGEL

SYNOPSIS

Amends the act of December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135), known as the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, further providing for definitions; repealing provisions related to the state horse racing commission and state harness racing commission; and providing for racing oversight.

BILL SUMMARY

Creates definitions. The bill dissolves the horse and harness racing commissions and places the regulation of racing within the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board giving the board authority over all pari-mutuel racing activities and drug testing. Allows the board to create temporary regulations for the implementation of the act. Authorizes a 1.5% surcharge on purses, which shall be used exclusively by the board for the promotion and marketing of racing. Authorizes COL adjustments of all fees, charges, costs and administrative penalties. Prohibits financial and employment interests and the acceptance of gifts by track personnel. Allows for classes of fees for occupational licensing which are capped at \$1,000.00. Authorizes licensing totalisator providers which shall not exceed \$100,000.00 annually. Increases fine cap to not exceed \$100,000.00. Directs 75% of breakage to the State Racing Fund. Preserves the management and oversight of fair racing within the Department of Agriculture. Authorizes fees for drug testing. Requires licensing of a horseman's organization. Authorizes fingerprinting and photographing for criminal history records for licensing purposes. Reduces admission fee from 50 cents to 20 cents. Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Effective Date: 60 days

CURRENT LAW

The Horse Race Industry Reform Act oversees the horse and harness racing in the Commonwealth.



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March 31, 2014

Amendment to Senate Bill: 1188

Amendment Number: A06352

Printers Number: 1756

Amendment Sponsor: VOGEL

SYNOPSIS

Amends the act of December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135), known as the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, further providing for definitions; repealing provisions related to the state horse racing commission and state harness racing commission; and providing for racing oversight.

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Reinserts the definition of "Internet wagering" and changes the term to "Electronic wagering". Changes references to "internet wagering" to "electronic wagering". Changes "air mile" to "land mile", changes "harness" to "standardbred" in definitions. Removes the admission fee in Section 208-A. Adds term of art to the definition of "Thoroughbred horse racing". Authorizes the Board and employees of the Board to administer oaths, examine witnesses and issue subpoenas. Authorizes the Board to cancel races if an insufficient number of horses have entered. Provides for additional licensure requirements. Creates licensing for horsemen's organizations. Authorizes the Board to disapprove any purse, reward or stake. Authorizes licensing for medical providers. Removes outdated statutory references. Requires racing officials, judges and starters, to be paid by the Board instead of licensed business. Authorizes daily assessment of violations and fines. Adds wager types to tax rate in Section 221-A. Removes bond and/or letter of credit requirements. Prohibits those convicted of animal cruelty from obtaining or renewing a license. Requires Pennsylvania Breeders Association to administer PA Breeding Fund and provides an administrative cap of 5 percent. Requires the Board to consult with the Board of Veterinary Medicine for drug testing. Authorizes joint applications for license of Category 1 casino's and tracks. Changes the effective date from 60 days to immediately pending the publishing of preparedness in the PA Bulletin by the Gaming Control Board.

CURRENT LAW

The Horse Race Industry Reform Act oversees the horse and harness racing in the Commonwealth.



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March 31, 2014

Amendment to Senate Bill: 1188

Amendment Number: A06412

Printers Number: 1756

Amendment Sponsor: SCHWANK

SYNOPSIS

Amends the act of December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135), known as the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, further providing for definitions; repealing provisions related to the state horse racing commission and state harness racing commission; and providing for racing oversight.

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Provides for transfer of employees of the state racing and harness racing commissions and personnel of the Department who are substantially involved in racing oversight. Provides for the continuation of state service time, paid holidays, and accrued sick and annual leave. Provides for any collective bargaining agreements to remain in force and effect.

CURRENT LAW

The Horse Race Industry Reform Act oversees the horse and harness racing in the Commonwealth.