



Let's Keep

STEVE

HAMBLEY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Check the Facts: Animal Abuse/ Humane Societies

- **Pending Am. HB 215 (Co-sponsor) — Prohibit and establish increased penalty for Promoting Animal Fighting (Passed House)** Prohibit & establish an increased penalty for knowingly engaging in betting, training or promoting activities associated with cockfighting, bearbaiting, or pitting an animal against another. Prohibits any person from knowingly using, possessing, or permitting or causing to be present at prohibited fighting events any device or substance intended to enhance an animal's ability to fight or to inflict injury on another animal.
- **Enacted HB 187 (Co-sponsor) — Allows First Responders To Provide Emergency Care To Injured Pets.**
 - * Authorizes specified emergency personnel to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat at the scene of an emergency, prior to transferring the animal to a veterinary care facility. Authorizes a veterinarian to establish and provide a written protocol to, or consult with, emergency medical service personnel to enable the provision of emergency medical services to a dog or cat.
- **Enacted Sub HB 60: (Co-sponsor) “Goddard's Law” Animal Abuse.**
 - * House Bill 60 makes it a fifth degree felony to knowingly cause serious physical harm to a companion animal, such as pets or domestic creatures. This is generally defined as activities involving a substantial risk of death, a partial or permanent incapacity, long-term pain, or deprivation of food, water and shelter. Prohibits a humane society or its agent from employing an attorney or assistant attorneys to prosecute a felony violation of the law prohibiting cruelty against companion animals—ensures that any prosecution as a felony is under the direction of a public prosecutor (as was the intent of HB 198—see below).
 - * Also modifies the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse, if the dog or horse is killed, to require a mandatory prison term and a mandatory fine.
- **Pending Sub. HB 278 (Primary Sponsor)** requires proof of training of appointed Humane Society Agents, increases their monthly salary (first increase since the 1950's), requires annual enforcement activity report to be submitted to county sheriff, specifying these records are public records, and defines Humane Society Agent as a public servant, making them subject to bribery law. Abolishes the humane society's authority to employ an attorney and assistant attorneys to prosecute certain violations of law dealing with acts involving abandonment, mistreatment, or nonsupport of children or nonsupport of a destitute parent. Allows Humane Society appointed attorneys and humane agents to be paid out of the general fund or dog and kennel fund of the county at the discretion of the County Commissioners.
 - * Current version supported by: Cleveland Animal Protective League; County Commissioners Association of Ohio, Ohio Judicial Conference, Office of the Ohio Public Defender.
- **Inactive HB 198 (Primary Sponsor)** - Abolishes humane society's authority to employ an attorney & assistant attorneys to prosecute certain violations of law dealing with animal cruelty or acts involving abandonment, mistreatment, or nonsupport of children or nonsupport of a destitute parent. **Note: HB 60 (“Goddard’s Law”)** as amended in House committee and enacted later included a provision that abolished this authority for felony violations of law dealing with animal cruelty.
 - * Proponents of Record: Mayor Dennis Hanwell, Medina City Law Director Greg Huber, Brunswick City Manager, County Commissioners Association of Ohio, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Ohio Judicial Conference, Office of the Ohio Public Defender.