

**In Support Of New York State Legislation A775a/S1776, Also
Known As The Consolidated Animal Crimes Bill**

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairman Richard A. Parete and Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Carl Belfiglio, Thomas J. Briggs, and Mary Beth Maio)

Legislator Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. and Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Terry L. Bernardo, Donald Gregorius, Mary Wawro, Robert Parete and Kenneth Wishnick offer the following:

WHEREAS, New York's animal cruelty laws have been hidden away within the State's Agriculture and Markets statutes for decades, confusing police, prosecutors and judges; and

WHEREAS, animal crimes occur in the field and often require emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Animal Crimes Bill (A.775a/S.1776) improves enforcement by placing animal crimes under the penal code, which is familiar, accessible, and taught to law enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS, this change promotes sound enforcement and consistent interpretation of animal crimes by members of law enforcement and the court system; and

WHEREAS, matters such as search warrants, fingerprinting, collection of DNA, recordkeeping, court surcharges, and other procedural aspects of law enforcement become applicable; and

WHEREAS, police officers will now be able to find the law, read the law, understand the law, and apply the law all while standing at a crime scene in the middle of the night; and

WHEREAS, prosecutors and defense attorneys will spend markedly less time in needless motion practice over the definition of obsolete terms or general applicability of passages; and

WHEREAS, judges will be better equipped to dispense justice to accused individuals; and

WHEREAS, the public will be better apprised of the standards that apply to the treatment of animals; now, therefore be it

Resolution No. 121 May 14, 2013

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature, at this time, support the promotion of understanding, awareness and enforcement of animal crime laws; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the New York State Governor and Legislature to ensure the passage of A.775a/S1776 within this legislative session; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo; New York State Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos, Majority Co-Leader Jeff Klein, Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Agricultural Committee Chair Patty Ritchie, and Senators William Larkin, Jr., John Bonacic, Cecelia Tkaczyk and James Seward; New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Assembly Agricultural Committee Chair William Magee and Assemblymen Claudia Tenney, Peter Lopez, Kevin Cahill and Frank Skartados,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Gregorius)

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on April 30, 2013

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0226

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 14th Day of May, 2013, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 15th Day of May in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature