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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 663 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, HUGHES, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, FARNESE,  
MUTH AND BLAKE, MAY 20, 2019

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REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, MAY 20, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), entitled  
2 "An act relating to dogs, regulating the keeping of dogs;  
3 providing for the licensing of dogs and kennels; providing  
4 for the protection of dogs and the detention and destruction  
5 of dogs in certain cases; regulating the sale and  
6 transportation of dogs; declaring dogs to be personal  
7 property and the subject of theft; providing for the  
8 abandonment of animals; providing for the assessment of  
9 damages done to animals; providing for payment of damages by  
10 the Commonwealth in certain cases and the liability of the  
11 owner or keeper of dogs for such damages; imposing powers and  
12 duties on certain State and local officers and employees;  
13 providing penalties; and creating a Dog Law Restricted  
14 Account," in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing  
15 for compensation and for applications for dog licenses, fees  
16 and penalties.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Section 200(b) of the act of December 7, 1982  
20 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended to read:

21 Section 200. Issuance of dog licenses; compensation; proof  
22 required; deposit of funds; records; license sales;  
23 rules and regulations; failure to comply; unlawful  
24 acts; penalty.

25 \* \* \*

1 (b) Compensation.--

2 (1) For services rendered in collecting and paying over  
3 dog license fees, agents, for as long as they continue to act  
4 in that capacity, may collect and retain [a sum equal to the  
5 cost of a postage stamp plus \$1] the following amounts for  
6 each dog license sold, which [amount] amounts shall be full  
7 compensation for services rendered by them under this act[.]:

8 (i) Beginning on the effective date of this  
9 subparagraph and continuing for one year, the amount  
10 shall be:

11 (A) \$2.

12 (B) \$3, for each lifetime license sold.

13 (ii) Beginning one year from the effective date of  
14 this subparagraph, the secretary shall have the authority  
15 to establish by regulation the amount of compensation  
16 collected. The amount established shall be only that  
17 which is required to cover the reasonable and necessary  
18 expenses of administering the duties provided in this  
19 act. The amounts shall reflect the increased  
20 administrative duties imposed in selling a lifetime dog  
21 license and shall provide for compensation to the county  
22 treasurer and agents under subsection (a)(1), (4) and  
23 (5).

24 (2) The compensation shall be retained by the respective  
25 agents and shall cover, among other things, the cost of  
26 processing and issuing dog licenses, postage, mailing,  
27 returns and bonding of the agents. A magisterial district  
28 judge authorized by the county treasurer to process  
29 applications for dog license certificates and issue dog  
30 license certificates is not authorized to collect

1 compensation under this subsection. Agents under subsection  
2 (a) (3) and (5) shall collect an additional 50¢ which shall be  
3 remitted to the county treasurer, for the use of the county,  
4 in the same manner as records are forwarded under subsection  
5 (e).

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 2. Section 201(a) and (b) of the act are amended and  
8 the section is amended by adding subsections to read:

9 Section 201. Applications for dog licenses; fees; penalties.

10 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), on  
11 or before January 1 of each year, the owner of any dog, [~~three~~  
12 ~~months~~] eight weeks of age or older, except as hereinafter  
13 provided, shall apply to the county treasurer of his respective  
14 county or an agent under section 200(a), on a form prescribed by  
15 the department, for the appropriate license for the dog. The  
16 application and license certificate shall state the breed, sex,  
17 age, color and markings of the dog, the name, address and  
18 telephone number of the owner and the year of licensure. The  
19 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee.  
20 [as follows:

21 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
22 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of  
23 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
24 produced, the license fee shall be \$5.

25 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee  
26 shall be \$7.

27 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older  
28 and persons with disabilities:

29 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
30 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor

1 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
2 produced, the license fee shall be \$3.

3 (ii) For all other male and female dogs, the license  
4 fee shall be \$5.

5 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),  
6 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or  
7 disability.

8 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag  
9 issued under this subsection shall be in addition to the  
10 required license fee under this section. The additional cost  
11 shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer  
12 that issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A  
13 vanity or collector tag shall not be issued without approval  
14 of the department.]

15 (a.1) Fee schedule.--Beginning on the effective date of this  
16 subsection and continuing for at least one year, the license  
17 fees shall be as follows:

18 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), the  
19 fees shall be:

20 (i) \$10.

21 (ii) \$49, for a lifetime license fee.

22 (2) For Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years  
23 of age and persons with disabilities, the fees shall be:

24 (i) \$7.

25 (ii) \$33, for a lifetime license fee.

26 (a.2) Regulations.--Beginning one year from the effective  
27 date of this subsection, the department may promulgate  
28 regulations to adjust the dog license fees under this section.  
29 The fees shall meet the reasonable expenses of administering the  
30 duties under this act. The department shall establish separate

1 fees for Pennsylvania residents who are at least 65 years of age  
2 and persons with disabilities.

3 (a.3) Applicability.--Compensation, if collected under  
4 section 200(b), shall be paid by all applicants, regardless of  
5 age, disability or type of license.

6 (a.4) Vanity and collector tags.--All additional costs of a  
7 vanity or collector tag issued under this section shall be in  
8 addition to the required fee under this section. The additional  
9 cost shall be distributed equally between the county treasurer  
10 who issued the license and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A  
11 vanity or collector tag may not be issued without approval of  
12 the department.

13 (b) Lifetime license.--The owner of any dog [three months of  
14 age or older] which has been permanently identified may apply to  
15 the county treasurer of his respective county or an agent under  
16 section 200(a), on a form prescribed by the department for a  
17 lifetime license for such a dog. Except as otherwise provided in  
18 this act, a dog which has been issued a lifetime license shall  
19 be required to wear a license tag. The application and license  
20 certificate shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings  
21 of such dog, the type and number of permanent identification and  
22 the name, address and telephone number of the owner. The  
23 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee  
24 [as follows:

25 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
26 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of  
27 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
28 produced, the lifetime license fee shall be \$30.

29 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee  
30 shall be \$50.

1 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older  
2 and persons with disabilities:

3 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
4 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor  
5 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
6 produced, the license fee shall be \$20.

7 (ii) For all other male and female dogs, the license  
8 fee shall be \$30.

9 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),  
10 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or  
11 disability. A dog which has been issued a lifetime license  
12 prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject  
13 to fees under this subsection.

14 (5) All additional costs of a vanity or collector tag  
15 issued under this subsection shall be charged in addition to  
16 the fees under this section. The additional cost shall be  
17 distributed equally between the county treasurer that issued  
18 the tag and the Dog Law Restricted Account. A vanity or  
19 collector tag shall not be issued without approval of the  
20 department] established under subsections (a.1) and (a.2).

21 \* \* \*

22 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.