

Act No. 155 (H.533). Crimes and criminal procedures; victim rights; animal welfare

An act relating to victims' rights and animal welfare

This act makes various changes to the victim notification statutes, including adding discharge or termination of probation to the list of circumstances triggering the right of a victim to request notification before the defendant is released, directing law enforcement to provide victims of listed crimes with information concerning bail or conditions of release imposed on the defendant prior to arraignment, and requiring that victims be notified and given the opportunity to appear and be heard at a change of plea hearing in which the court is considering a deferred sentence.

This act also creates the 16-member Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board within the Department for Public Safety, tasked with exercising oversight over Vermont's system for investigating and responding to animal cruelty complaints and developing a systematic, collaborative approach to providing the best services to Vermont's animals statewide, given available monies. It also sets forth requirements for training of law enforcement and humane officers, and provides that the Commissioner of Corrections may implement a pilot program that would permit qualified inmates to provide on-site care for animals.

This act also directs that Bridge #64 on Vermont Route 105 in the town of Derby shall be named the "Kermit A. Smith Memorial Bridge."

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2016