

S.12

An act relating to increasing the maximum prison sentence for first, second, and subsequent offenses of aggravated animal cruelty.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. chapter 8 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 8. HUMANE AND PROPER TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Subchapter 1. Cruelty to Animals

§ 351. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Animal" means all living sentient creatures, not human beings.

\* \* \*

(19) "Sexual conduct" means:

(A) any act between a person and animal that involves contact between the mouth, sex organ, or anus of a person and the mouth, sex organ, or anus of an animal; or

(B) without a bona fide veterinary or animal husbandry purpose, the insertion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or of any instrument, apparatus, or other object into the vaginal or anal opening of an animal.

\* \* \*

§ 352. CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

A person commits the crime of cruelty to animals if the person:

(1) intentionally kills or attempts to kill any animal belonging to another person without first obtaining legal authority or consent of the owner, or engages in a reckless course of conduct that results in the death of an animal;

\* \* \*

(10) uses a live animal as bait or lure in a race, game, or contest, or in training animals in a manner inconsistent with 10 V.S.A. Part 4 of Title 10 or the rules adopted thereunder;

(11)(A) engages in sexual conduct with an animal;

(B) possesses, sells, transfers, purchases, or otherwise obtains an animal with the intent that it be used for sexual conduct;

(C) organizes, promotes, conducts, aids, abets, or participates in as an observer an act involving any sexual conduct with an animal;

(D) causes, aids, or abets another person to engage in sexual conduct with an animal;

(E) permits sexual conduct with an animal to be conducted on premises under his or her charge or control; or

(F) advertises, offers, or accepts the offer of an animal with the intent that it be subject to sexual conduct in this State.

§ 352a. AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

A person commits the crime of aggravated cruelty to animals if the person:

(1) kills an animal by intentionally causing the animal undue pain or suffering;

(2) intentionally, maliciously, and without just cause tortures, mutilates, or cruelly beats an animal; or

(3) intentionally injures or kills an animal that is in the performance of official duties while under the supervision of a law enforcement officer.

\* \* \*

§ 353. DEGREE OF OFFENSE; SENTENCING UPON CONVICTION

(a) Penalties.

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (3) ~~or~~, (4), or (5) of this subsection, cruelty to animals under section 352 of this title shall be punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both. Second and subsequent convictions shall be punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(2) Aggravated cruelty under section 352a of this title shall be punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of not more than three years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both. Second and subsequent offenses shall be punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of not more than five years or a fine of not more than \$7,500.00, or both.

\* \* \*

(5) A person who violates subdivision 352(1) of this title by intentionally killing or attempting to kill an animal belonging to another or subdivision 352(2) of this title by torturing, administering poison to, or cruelly beating or mutilating an animal shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.