

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 123
3 entitled “An act relating to limiting liability for animal shelter and rescue
4 organizations assisting law enforcement in animal cruelty investigations”
5 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
6 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
7 lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 3903 is amended to read:

9 § 3903. ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

10 (a) [Repealed.]

11 (b) Animal intake. An animal shelter or rescue organization ~~under this~~
12 ~~chapter as defined by section 3901 of this title shall not accept an animal~~
13 ~~unless the person transferring the animal to the shelter provides~~ shall make
14 every effort to collect the following information about an animal it accepts: the
15 name and address of the person transferring the animal and, if known, the
16 name of the animal, its vaccination history, and other information concerning
17 the background, temperament, and health of the animal.

18 (c) Nonprofit status. A rescue organization under this chapter shall be
19 recognized and approved as a nonprofit organization under 26 U.S.C.

20 § 501(c)(3).

1 (d) Immunity from liability. Notwithstanding section 3901a of this title,
2 any animal shelter or rescue organization assisting law enforcement in an
3 animal cruelty investigation or seizure that, in good faith, provides care and
4 treatment to an animal involved in the investigation or seizure shall not be held
5 liable for civil damages by the owner of the animal unless the actions of the
6 shelter or organization constitute gross negligence.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.

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13 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE