

House Bill 2694

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows regulated social worker employed by Department of Human Services to report suspected animal abuse or neglect involving animal or person social worker comes into contact with while acting as employee of department. Provides immunity for good faith reporting.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the reporting of suspected offenses against animals.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Abuse or neglect" means:**

6 (A) **Animal abuse in the second degree as described in ORS 167.315;**

7 (B) **Animal abuse in the first degree as described in ORS 167.320;**

8 (C) **Aggravated animal abuse in the first degree as described in ORS 167.322;**

9 (D) **Animal neglect in the second degree as described in ORS 167.325; or**

10 (E) **Animal neglect in the first degree as described in ORS 167.330.**

11 (b) **"Animal rescue entity" means an entity licensed under ORS 609.415.**

12 (c) **"Regulated social worker" means a person authorized under ORS 675.510 to 675.600**
13 **to perform regulated social work.**

14 (2) **Notwithstanding ORS 40.250, in addition to the authorization under ORS 609.654 to**
15 **report aggravated animal abuse in the first degree, a regulated social worker who is an em-**
16 **ployee of the Department of Human Services and has reasonable cause to believe that an**
17 **animal with which the social worker has come in contact as an employee of the department**
18 **has suffered abuse or neglect, or that any person with whom the social worker has come in**
19 **contact as an employee of the department has committed abuse or neglect of an animal, may**
20 **immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect in the manner prescribed in subsection**
21 **(3) of this section.**

22 (3) **A report under subsection (2) of this section may be made to a law enforcement**
23 **agency or an animal rescue entity, either orally or in writing, and may include, if known:**

24 (a) **The name and description of each animal involved;**

25 (b) **The address and telephone number of the owner or other person responsible for the**
26 **care of the animal;**

27 (c) **The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect;**

28 (d) **Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect or of previous aggravated animal abuse in**
29 **the first degree as described in ORS 167.322;**

30 (e) **Any explanation given for the suspected abuse or neglect; and**

31 (f) **Any other information that the regulated social worker believes may be helpful in**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **establishing the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect or the identity of a person causing**
2 **abuse or neglect.**

3 **(4) A regulated social worker who acts in good faith and has reasonable grounds for**
4 **making a report under this section of suspected abuse or neglect is not liable in any civil or**
5 **criminal proceeding brought as a result of making the report.**

6 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2015 Act applies to reporting on or after the effective date**
7 **of this 2015 Act of the suspected abuse or neglect of an animal occurring before, on or after**
8 **the effective date of this 2015 Act.**

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