

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 64

BY SENATOR GATTI

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ANIMALS. Provides for animal shelter operating procedures and training requirements and authorizes animal shelters to post pictures of animals on a social media account or website. (8/1/17)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:2463(C) and (E) and to enact R.S. 3:2462(6) and 2465(E),
3 relative to animal shelter operating procedures; to authorize animal shelters to post
4 pictures of animals on a social media account or website; to require inspectors and
5 shelter personnel to attend annual training; to provide for definitions; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:2463(C) and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
9 3:2462(6) and 2465(E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §2462. Definitions

11 As used in this Part, the following words shall have the following meanings
12 ascribed to them:

13 * * *

14 **(6) "Social media account" means an Internet-based service that allows**
15 **individuals to do the following:**

16 **(a) Construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system**
17 **created by the service.**

* * *

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2 **E. Any animal shelter that maintains a social media account or a website**

3 **may post pictures of every animal that enters the shelter upon intake and again**

4 **prior to euthanasia of the animal.**

The original instrument was prepared by Curry J. Lann. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

SB 64 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Gatti

Present law requires animal shelters to be inspected at least once every six months by an authorized representative of the parish in which it is located.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires each parish to notify the director of the animal control agency or shelter of the inspector's name in writing.

Proposed law requires inspectors and shelter personnel to annually attend training offered by an organization that provides accredited continuing education courses regarding shelter safety, animal welfare, and state compliance procedures, such as the Louisiana Animal Control Association. Provides, however, that the training requirement shall apply only if an online training option is available.

Present law (R.S. 3:2463-2465) provides for animal shelter minimum standards and operating procedures.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides for the following definition:

- (1) "Social media account" means an Internet-based service that allows individuals to do the following:
- (a) Construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system created by the service.
 - (b) Create a list of other users with whom they share a connection within the system.
 - (c) View and navigate their list of connections and those made by others within the system.

Present law requires shelters to be inspected at least every six months by an authorized parish representative and authorizes additional inspections be made promptly upon receipt of a complaint. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the parish to notify the director of the animal control agency or shelter of the inspector's name in writing. Requires each individual authorized to conduct shelter inspections to annually attend training provided by an organization providing accredited continuing education courses and further provides that the requirement for such training shall only apply if an online training option is available.

Proposed law requires shelter personnel to annually attend the same training as shelter

inspectors and provides that such training requirement shall apply only if an online training option is available.

Proposed law authorizes any animal shelter that maintains a social media account or a website to post pictures of every animal that enters the shelter upon intake and again prior to euthanasia of the animal.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Amends R.S. 3:2463(C) and (E); adds R.S. 3:2462(6) and 2465(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill

1. Defines the terms "severely injured" and "terminally ill".
2. Expands the training requirement for inspectors and shelter personnel to include organizations that offer accredited continuing education courses regarding shelter safety, animal welfare, and state compliance procedures.
3. Exempts certain cats and severely injured or terminally ill animals from the seventy-two hour minimum hold requirement.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Removes the definitions of "severely injured" and "terminally ill".
2. Adds a provision that the annual training requirement for individuals authorized to conduct shelter inspections and shelter personnel shall only apply only if an online training option is available.
3. Deletes the provision requiring a minimum 72-hour hold for any animal seized while running at large and bearing no identification prior to such animal becoming property of the animal shelter or animal control agency.
4. Deletes the provisions exempting certain animals from the minimum 72-hour hold.