



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Dear Honorable Senator:

We respectfully request you vote NO on final passage of SB 907 or vote to recommit it for further evaluation. In its present form, we believe SB 907 has the potential to weaken rather than strengthen the animal protection laws that the Legislature has enacted during the past half century.

SB 907 proposes to establish a board to meet at least one time during the legislative session to review Pennsylvania's animal-related laws and make recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes. This may sound like a good idea, however, as written, the board has a majority composition of organizations which have no expertise or knowledge of the laws they are intended to review. Inexplicably, the board would have limited representation by organizations who actually work with animal-related statutes on a daily basis. The following delineates suggested board membership:

- 5 members from the agricultural industry
- 4 members representing dog breeders
- 1 representative from the insurance federation
- 2 members from animal shelters
- 1 state police officer
- 1 agent from the Attorney General's office
- 2 veterinarians

Interestingly, as amended in committee, without justification the bill proposes to include a single dog breed specific organization on the proposed board to the exclusion of all other breed specific organizations.

Moreover, formation of this board would be duplicative, bureaucratic, and expensive. The Dog Law Advisory Board, charged with protecting animals, consumers, and communities, currently meets regularly, and provides recommendations for improvements. The charter of this existing board could be amended to incorporate new accountabilities if that is deemed necessary. When the Commonwealth is struggling every year to adequately fund the Bureau of Dog Law it simply doesn't make good sense to create another competing advisory entity for these scarce funds.

Please actively oppose SB 907. With an oddly constructed board membership and by draining scarce funds from other purposes, it is apparent that this legislation is more likely to weaken animal protections rather than uphold and strengthen them.

Thank you,

Kristen Tullo, PA State Director, Heidi Prescott, and Senator Roy Afflerbach, Ret.