## **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**REGULAR SESSION, 1988** 

## ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 4/33

(By thelegater Given & Idunphreys)

In Effect Minety Days France Passage

## ENROLLED H. B. 4133

(By Delegates Given and Humphreys)

[Passed March 11, 1988; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend article eight, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated section nineteen-a, relating to acts of cruelty to dogs and cats; prohibiting certain acts with respect thereto, including, but not limited to, prohibiting the pitting of such animals against each other in fights; and prescribing penalties for violations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article eight, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section nineteen-a, to read as follows:

- ARTICLE 8. CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, MORALITY, AND DECENCY.
- §61-8-19a. Cruelty to dogs and cats prohibited; pitting such animals in fights against each other prohibited; penalties.
  - 1 If any person shall cruelly, or needlessly beat, torture,
  - 2 torment, mutilate, kill or willfully deprive necessary
  - 3 sustenance, to any dog or cat, irrespective of whether
  - 4 any such dog or cat be his or her own or that of another
  - 5 person, or if any such person shall impound or confine
  - 6 any such dog or cat in any place unprotected from the
  - 7 elements or fail to supply the same with a sufficient

8 quantity of food and water, or shall abandon to die any 9 maimed, sick, or diseased dog or cat or shall be engaged 10 in or employed at dogfighting, or pitting one dog or cat 11 to fight against another dog or cat or any similar cruelty 12 to any dog or cat, or shall receive money for the 13 admission of any person, or shall knowingly purchase an 14 admission, to any place kept for such purpose, or shall use, train or possess a dog or cat for the purpose of 15 16 seizing, detaining, or maltreating any other dog or cat. 17 he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon 18 conviction, shall be fined not less than one hundred nor 19 more than one thousand dollars, and in addition thereto, 20 in the discretion of the court or magistrate, may be 21imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty days, 22 and the county humane officer may remove the dog or 23 cat involved and place said animal in the county pound.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

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OFFICE OF NAST CONSIDER SECRETARY SINGLES