

New Hampshire Cruelty Reporting Bill

Amendment to HB 110

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT requiring persons who witness cruelty to livestock to report such cruelty  
4 and the existence of any evidence of such cruelty to a law enforcement  
5 agency.

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7 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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9 1 New Paragraph; Cruelty to Livestock. Amend RSA 644:8 by inserting after  
10 paragraph V the following new paragraph:

11 VI.(a) Anyone who witnesses another person performing acts of cruelty to livestock,  
12 as defined in RSA 427:38, or to poultry has a duty to report such cruelty to law enforcement  
13 with jurisdiction, within 48 hours of witnessing such cruelty. If the person making the  
14 report has evidence of the cruelty, he or she shall have the same duty to notify law  
15 enforcement that he or she has such evidence at the same time they make a report. If the  
16 evidence is a photograph or video, the witness shall keep an unedited copy for 60 days. It  
17 shall be a defense to prosecution under this section if the person witnessing the acts of  
18 cruelty reasonably believes his or herself to be criminally liable for the conduct of the actor  
19 pursuant to RSA 626:8. Failure to report cruelty to livestock or poultry is a violation and  
20 carries a \$250 fine for the first offense and \$1,000 fine for each subsequent offense.

21 (b) Cruelty for the purpose of this paragraph shall be defined as the commission  
22 of an offense which intentionally or knowingly tortures, maims, lacerates or grossly  
23 overworks livestock or poultry; or transports or confines livestock or poultry in a cruel  
24 manner not consistent with good animal agriculture practices.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires persons who witness cruelty to livestock to report such cruelty and existence of any evidence of such cruelty to a law enforcement agency.