

**Assembly Bill No. 1540**

CHAPTER 303

An act to amend Section 597s of the Penal Code, relating to animals.

[Approved by Governor September 1, 1999. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 2, 1999.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1540, Vincent. Animals: willful abandonment.

Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to willfully abandon any domestic dog or cat.

This bill instead would apply this prohibition to any animal. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would make this provision inapplicable to the release or rehabilitation and release of native California wildlife pursuant to statute or regulations of the California Department of Fish and Game.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 597s of the Penal Code is amended to read:

597s. (a) Every person who willfully abandons any animal is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) This section shall not apply to the release or rehabilitation and release of native California wildlife pursuant to statute or regulations of the California Department of Fish and Game.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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