

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2012

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieu
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Smyth)

February 17, 2010

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2012, as amended, Lieu. Cruelty to animals.

Existing law provides, subject to exceptions, that every person who overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, drink, or shelter, cruelly beats, mutilates, or cruelly kills any animal, or causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter, or to be cruelly beaten, mutilated, or cruelly killed; and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, subjects any animal to needless suffering, or inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the animal, or in any manner abuses any animal, or fails to provide the animal with proper food, drink, or shelter or protection from the weather, or who drives, rides, or otherwise uses the animal when unfit for labor, is guilty of a crime punishable as a misdemeanor or as a felony, or alternatively as a misdemeanor or a felony and a fine of not more than \$20,000.

This bill would revise the punishment for this offense to provide that it is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or in the state prison, or by a fine of not more than \$20,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment. The bill would make other technical, nonsubstantive changes.

By revising the penalty for an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

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

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

3 597. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c) of this section
4 or Section 599c, every person who maliciously and intentionally
5 maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal, or
6 maliciously and intentionally kills an animal, is guilty of a crime
7 punishable pursuant to subdivision (d).

8 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (a) or (c), every
9 person who overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded,
10 overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance,
11 drink, or shelter, cruelly beats, mutilates, or cruelly kills any
12 animal, or causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven,
13 overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured,
14 tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter, or to
15 be cruelly beaten, mutilated, or cruelly killed; and whoever, having
16 the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise,
17 subjects any animal to needless suffering, or inflicts unnecessary
18 cruelty upon the animal, or in any manner abuses any animal, or
19 fails to provide the animal with proper food, drink, or shelter or
20 protection from the weather, or who drives, rides, or otherwise
21 uses the animal when unfit for labor, is, for each offense, guilty
22 of a crime punishable pursuant to subdivision (d).

(c) Every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, or tortures any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish, as described in subdivision (e), is guilty of a crime punishable pursuant to subdivision (d).

(d) A violation of subdivision (a), (b), or (c) is punishable as a felony by imprisonment in the state prison, or by a fine of not more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment, or alternatively, as a misdemeanor by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(e) Subdivision (c) applies to any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish which is a creature described as follows:

(1) Endangered species or threatened species as described in Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code.

(2) Fully protected birds described in Section 3511 of the Fish and Game Code.

(3) Fully protected mammals described in Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 4700) of Part 3 of Division 4 of the Fish and Game Code.

(4) Fully protected reptiles and amphibians described in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5050) of Division 5 of the Fish and Game Code.

(5) Fully protected fish as described in Section 5515 of the Fish and Game Code.

This subdivision does not supersede or affect any provisions of law relating to taking of the described species, including, but not limited to, Section 12008 of the Fish and Game Code.

(f) For the purposes of subdivision (c), each act of malicious and intentional maiming, mutilating, or torturing a separate specimen of a creature described in subdivision (e) is a separate offense. If any person is charged with a violation of subdivision (c), the proceedings shall be subject to Section 12157 of the Fish and Game Code.

(g) (1) Upon the conviction of a person charged with a violation of this section by causing or permitting an act of cruelty, as defined in Section 599b, all animals lawfully seized and impounded with respect to the violation by a peace officer, officer of a humane society, or officer of a pound or animal regulation department of

1 a public agency shall be adjudged by the court to be forfeited and
2 shall thereupon be awarded to the impounding officer for proper
3 disposition. A person convicted of a violation of this section by
4 causing or permitting an act of cruelty, as defined in Section 599b,
5 shall be liable to the impounding officer for all costs of
6 impoundment from the time of seizure to the time of proper
7 disposition.

8 (2) Mandatory seizure or impoundment shall not apply to
9 animals in properly conducted scientific experiments or
10 investigations performed under the authority of the faculty of a
11 regularly incorporated medical college or university of this state.

12 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a defendant
13 is granted probation for a conviction under this section, the court
14 shall order the defendant to pay for, and successfully complete,
15 counseling, as determined by the court, designed to evaluate and
16 treat behavior or conduct disorders. If the court finds that the
17 defendant is financially unable to pay for that counseling, the court
18 may develop a sliding fee schedule based upon the defendant's
19 ability to pay. An indigent defendant may negotiate a deferred
20 payment schedule, but shall pay a nominal fee if the defendant has
21 the ability to pay the nominal fee. County mental health
22 departments or Medi-Cal shall be responsible for the costs of
23 counseling required by this section only for those persons who
24 meet the medical necessity criteria for mental health managed care
25 pursuant to Section 1830.205 of Title 9 of the California Code of
26 Regulations or the targeted population criteria specified in Section
27 5600.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The counseling
28 specified in this subdivision shall be in addition to any other terms
29 and conditions of probation, including any term of imprisonment
30 and any fine. This provision specifies a mandatory additional term
31 of probation and is not to be utilized as an alternative in lieu of
32 imprisonment in the state prison or *in a* county jail when that
33 sentence is otherwise appropriate. If the court does not order
34 custody as a condition of probation for a conviction under this
35 section, the court shall specify on the court record the reason or
36 reasons for not ordering custody. This subdivision shall not apply
37 to cases involving police dogs or horses as described in Section
38 600.

39 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
40 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because

1 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
2 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
3 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
4 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
5 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
6 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
7 Constitution.

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