

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24319

This legislation amends Sections 25-3502, 25-3504, 25-3520 and 20-511A relating to prohibitions on animal cruelty. Specifically, the proposed legislation includes the following amendments to existing law:

1. Clarifies that pet equines not used for any commercial activity are companion animals;
2. Provides that the knowing and willful torture of a companion animal is a felony upon a second offense;
3. Provides that the knowing and willful torture of companion animal is a felony upon a first offense if committed in the presence of a minor;
4. Provides that a person convicted of animal cruelty may be ordered to participate in available animal cruelty prevention or education programs; and
5. Permits a court to order the Department of Health and Welfare to submit an appropriate mental health assessment where the record before the court indicates that a juvenile is suffering from a serious emotional disturbance which presents a risk to the safety or well-being of an animal or companion animal.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact on the General fund.

Contact:

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