



JUNE, 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BILLS



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK**

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

The League of Humane Voters® of New York
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THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS



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INTRODUCTION

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection. LOHV® works for animal protection by:

- Lobbying for animal-friendly laws;
- Campaigning for candidates who support animal protection;
- Being a strong political voice for all animals --domestic, wildlife, farm, and all animals who suffer from abuse and exploitation; and,
- Demonstrating that animal advocates are a substantial voting bloc.

THE LOHV DELIVERS THE VOTE

The LOHV® recognizes that animal protection requires laws and enforcement. Animal exploitation is a political issue and not just a moral one, and our goal is to make animal protection a mainstream political issue by building support among citizens, activists, political parties, and elected representatives.

Those who hold elective office can pass laws to protect animals. LOHV® endorses candidates and then campaigns for their election to public office. We help to get out the vote for our candidates. Once in office, we lobby office-holders to enact animal protective legislation.

LOHV® is strictly non-partisan.

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PROHIBITS KILLING CONTESTS

Provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to organize, sponsor, conduct, promote, or participate in any contest, competition, tournament or derby where the objective of such contest or competition is to take wildlife.

A722-A Assembly Member Glick

S.4253-A Senator Martinez

AS OF 5/22/2019 IN ENCON COMMITTEE IN BOTH HOUSES :

**ACTION: Call Chairs below and request the bill to be placed on the agenda and reported favorably
AM Englebright 518-455-4804;
Sen. Kaminsky 518-455-3401**

Amends the Environmental Conservation law to make contests and competitions to kill wildlife illegal



Wildlife killing events target wildlife species for which there are no protections. Frequently, there is no limit to the number of animals that may be killed. The participants who kill the greatest number, the largest, the heaviest, or some other criterion for assessing wildlife-killing success, are declared winners and awarded prizes.

- A large amount of lead is introduced into the environment at one time that other animals ingest. This concentration of lead can lead to lead poisoning.
- *The wanton and wasteful killing of wildlife interrupts the natural ecology and actually INCREASES populations via a well-known biological phenomenon called *Compensatory Rebound*, which results from the remaining members having more food available, and consequently a higher birthrate the following season. With coyotes, once the alpha pair is destroyed, all the coyotes will begin to breed, leading to a continuing supply of animals to kill.
- Thousands of crows, coyotes, and squirrels are killed in mindless contests.
- Recently, in Brockport, NY, hundreds of shooters participated to see which of them could shoot the heaviest set of five squirrels in one day. The first prize was \$200. The first prize in the children's division was \$50. This contest was sponsored by the local lodge.
- Bars and other drinking establishments tend to organize or conduct these events, which encourages a drinking party atmosphere and often encourages shooting while drinking, which is ignored by the regulators.
- It wrongfully teaches that wild animals have no value and no individuality, as well as teaching violence.

A bill to prohibit the declawing of cats

A.1303 Assembly Member Rosenthal

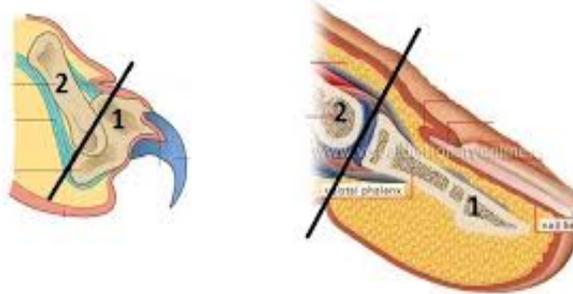
S.5532 Sen. Gianaris

ACTION: Call below and request the bill to be placed on the agenda and reported favorably

IN CODES COMMITTEE IN ASSEMBLY: Call Chair, Assembly Member Lentol 518-455-4477;

IN DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE: Call Chair, Senator Martinez 518-455-2950

What declawing actually is compared to a human finger



Declawing is an invasive procedure that will change the cat's physiology and seems to go against the laws of nature. Cats are *supposed* to have claws, which is why they're born with them. Claws are used to catch prey and escape from predators, groom, scratch, climb, help them fully stretch, maintain balance and relieve stress through kneading.

Despite the term "declaw," it is important to understand that this surgery involves more than just claw removal. The last bone of the digit must be amputated in order to make sure the claw does not grow back. Declawing has been treated as a routine veterinary procedure for decades. But increasingly, the surgery is recognized as inhumane, unnecessary, and can cause cats to live with chronic pain. That's why at least 42 countries and nine U.S. cities have banned declaw surgery.

Cats can feel unsafe and are more likely to bite without the natural protection of their claws. The surgery also can make using the litter box uncomfortable as paws often remain tender for a lifetime. Biting and litter box avoidance—effects of declawing—are the most common reasons cats are abandoned in shelters, where 70 percent are killed nationwide.

According to Alley Cat Allies: *At least 41 countries have made declawing illegal, including England, France, Wales, New Zealand, Germany, Switzerland, and Israel. In North America, declawing is outlawed in nine U.S. cities—Denver, Colorado and eight cities in California—and in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. In the past few years, an increasing number of state bills have been introduced to ban declawing, indicating that jurisdictions are finally recognizing declawing as cruel and inhumane.*

PLANT-BASED LUNCH OPTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amends the Education law to require public schools to provide a plant-based lunch entrée option.

A.1624/Assembly Member Gottfried

S.1472/Senator Hoylman

In Education Committee in both houses

Action: Call Chairs below and request the bill to be placed on the agenda and reported favorably

Chair A/M Benedetto 518-455-5296, Chair/Sen. Mayer 518-455-2031



Delicious...Heathful...Better for the Environment!

* It's a proven fact that plant based foods are a healthy alternative to conventional meals.

Plant-based cheese, milk, and meats are readily available. IKEA started serving plant-based Swedish meatballs and it has been so successful that they have expanded their plant-based options.

- The Food Climate Research Network (FCRN) at the University of Oxford, concluded that a plant-based diet has advantages for health and the environment. This is in accordance with a new study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published on May 19, 2016.
- Medical professionals promote a PBD for patients suffering from heart disease, obesity, diabetes and certain types of cancers. In some cases, the diet has been known to reverse symptoms, as well as the disease itself. In 2017,
- The Los Angeles Unified School District voted in favor of adopting a healthful PBD option in L.A. schools. The pilot program was championed by students, parents and doctors. 1,200 public schools in the NYC school district began offering at least one PB entrée at the commencement of the 2017 semester, thanks to Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams who is a vegan.
- New York State cares about the health and well-being of its children. Diet is a major component in the critical stages of a child's development. It is also essential for a child's concentration. Not only will students benefit from a PBD entrée option but, faculty and other staff in the school system will as well.

SUMMARY OF BILL:

Public schools -- grammar through high school -- would be required to offer at least one PB entrée for every meal throughout the school year. All their written material describing food offerings shall include the availability of a plant-based food option. The entrée should be affordable for all students and employees.

Establishes a crime registry of all convicted animal abusers in New York State

A.1090 Assembly Member Rosenthal

S. 2602 Senator Brooks

ACTION: Call below and request the bill to be placed on the agenda and reported favorably

IN ASSEMBLY CODES COMMITTEE, CHAIR ASSEMBLY MEMBER LENTOL 518-455-4477

IN SENATE DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE, CHAIR SENATOR MARTINEZ 518-455-2950

FAMOUS ANIMAL ABUSERS



Nikolas Cruz

Ted Bundy

Jeffrey Dahmer

David Berkowitz

THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL CRUELTY AND HUMAN VIOLENCE IS INDISPUTABLE

It would require abusers to register with their local law enforcement agency. It enhances protection by warning the community, particularly pet owners, and operators of animal adoption programs, when a convicted animal abuser may be living nearby. It is intended to function in much the same way that sex-offender registries function. Further, it will give notice to potential employers of pet shops or shelters, or even animal laboratories.

BACKGROUND

- The link between violence against animals and violence against human beings is well documented. According to the FBI, those who harm animals are four times more likely to commit violence against other people. Individuals who mistreat, abuse, or kill domestic animals or wildlife often extend that behavior to humans in the form of domestic violence, child abuse, and in certain cases, even murder. It is essential for the safety and well-being of the community to deal seriously with crimes against animals, and to keep animal abusers from potential victims.
- A database of this kind would further assist law enforcement by providing a catalog of individuals who may not show up in other databases. Many criminals who have performed violent acts against another person have "started small" by harming animals.
- Albany, Rockland, Ulster, Westchester, Suffolk, Orange, Nassau, and Cattaraugus Counties, and NYC have recognized the importance of an animal abuse registry and have passed laws to establish them. A statewide law would close the loopholes that currently exist when a convicted animal abuser changes locations.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL

Convicted animal abuser's photo and legal name must be provided along with any aliases, date of birth, race, gender, home address, and nature and date(s) of the offense(s). These lists should be public so that information can also be checked by other law enforcement agencies, humane societies, animal shelters, animal-welfare organizations, and other animal-related entities.

CODE RED/CODE BLUE

Amends the Agriculture and Markets law by requiring domestic companion animals be removed from extreme weather conditions.

A6995 Sponsor: AM Epstein

S. 4577 -Sponsor: Sen. Martinez

ACTION: request the bill to be placed on the agenda and reported favorably
In Assembly Agriculture Committee. Chair, AM Lupardo 518-455-5693
In Sen. Domestic Animal Welfare Committee. Chair, Sen. Martinez 518-455-2950



This cat actually was found in time, the dog didn't make it.

Enacts a standard temperature to protect domestic companion animals that are at risk of extreme cold or heat

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

When the National Weather Service declares a "Cold Code Blue": Temperature falls below 32 degrees or wind chill below 0 degrees (Fahrenheit), or ice storms or freezing rain or snow greater than 6 inches or a "Hot Code Red" Heat index of 90 degrees is predicted within 24 hours, the State of New York must issue a public service announcement notifying pet owners and guardians to remove their animals from the above conditions. Animal control and humane officers would have the authority to seize the animal(s) immediately if pet owners and guardians do not comply.

BACKGROUND:

Every year in New York State domestic companion animals fall victim to extreme temperatures that often prove fatal. On average, most pet owners and guardians care enough to keep their animals indoors when temperatures are extreme, however, for whatever reason, some leave their animals outdoors. This is a blatant form of neglect which, all too often, leads to injury and in some cases death. Between 2017 and 2018, there were at least 50 companion animal deaths related to cold weather—and those are just the ones that were reported.

Animal fatalities due to heat stroke are just as common, although they may not be reported as often by the media.

Local weather stations inform the public about severe weather conditions, when they will occur, and what the temperature ranges will be. Some cities even announce a "Cold Code Blue" or "Hot Code Red" for people to take shelter from the elements. Animal control and humane societies are inundated with complaints concerning animals left out in the cold or heat, however, there is little they can do. Currently there is no New York State law on the books that requires a pet owner or guardian to take their animal inside.



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