



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
|| BILL SUMMARY

**Senate Bill 176**  
**Printer's No. 168**

Prime Sponsor: Senator Reschenthaler  
Committee: Judiciary

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**SYNOPSIS:**

This bill amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to require cross-reporting of animal cruelty and child abuse.

**SUMMARY:**

This bill amends Section 5511 (relating to cruelty to animals) of Title 18 to require that a social services employee who forms a reasonable belief that an animal is the victim of cruelty must report that suspicion to a society or association that deals with the prevention of cruelty to animals. The term "social services employee" means an employee of the Commonwealth or a political subdivision, or someone acting under a contract with the Commonwealth or a political subdivision, to provide human services.

The bill amends Section 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse) of Title 23 by adding animal control officers and humane society police officers to the list of individuals currently required to report possible child abuse.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

The bill is effective in sixty days.

**BILL HISTORY:**

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 1/27/2017