

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: House Bill 1750

Printer's No.: 2650

Sponsor: Rep. Maher

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends section 5511 of the Crimes Code, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, relating to cruelty to animals, to prohibit the killing of a dog or cat for the purpose of human consumption.

Summary:

Definition of offense

Under new section 5511(c.1) a person commits an offense if the person does any of the following:

- (1) Kills a dog or cat, regardless of ownership of the animal, for the purpose of human consumption.
- (2) Processes dog or cat meat for the purpose of human consumption.
- (3) Breeds, keeps, sells, offers for sale or transfers a dog or cat for the purpose of human consumption.
- (4) Offers dog or cat meat for human consumption.

Grading

As a general rule, a person who violates section 5511(c.1) commits a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 or to imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. A person who has committed a prior offense commits a third degree felony and shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$15,000 or to imprisonment for not more than seven years, or both. A prior offense shall mean a conviction, adjudication of delinquency, acceptance of ARD or other form of preliminary disposition, occurring before the sentence on the present violation.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: The House of Representatives passed House Bill 1750 on November 18, 2013 by a vote of 201 to 0.