

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs offered the following substitute to SB 257:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general  
2 provisions relative to animals, so as to provide for consultation with a veterinarian employed  
3 or approved by the Department of Agriculture prior to the filing of criminal charges for  
4 cruelty to animals in certain instances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions  
8 relative to animals, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "4-1-7.

10 Prior to the filing of criminal charges for a violation under Code Section 16-12-4 with  
11 regard to conduct involving animal husbandry of cattle, swine, goats, or sheep, a law  
12 enforcement officer shall consult with a veterinarian employed by the department or a  
13 licensed and accredited veterinarian approved by the Commissioner to confirm whether or  
14 not such conduct is in accordance with customary and standard practice."  
15

**SECTION 2.**

16 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.  
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