

Senate Bill 257

By: Senator Heath of the 31st

AS PASSED SENATE

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:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "4-1-7.

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

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.