

The House Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs offers 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 licensed and accredited  
3 Category II veterinarian employed by the Department of Agriculture or other agency of the  
4 state whose primary practice and responsibilities are food animal veterinary medicine prior  
5 to the filing of criminal charges for cruelty to animals in certain instances; to provide for a  
6 definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

11 "4-1-7.

12 Prior to the filing of criminal charges for a violation under Code Section 16-12-4 with  
13 regard to conduct involving animal husbandry of food animals, a law enforcement officer  
14 shall consult with a licensed and accredited Category II veterinarian employed by the  
15 department or other agency of the State of Georgia whose primary practice and  
16 responsibilities are food animal veterinary medicine to confirm whether or not such  
17 conduct is in accordance with customary and standard practice. For purposes of this Code  
18 section, the term 'food animal' means any animal that is raised for the production of an  
19 edible product intended for consumption by humans or is itself intended for consumption  
20 by humans. Such term shall include, but is not limited to, eggs, beef or dairy cattle, swine,  
21 sheep, goats, poultry, nonornamental fish, and any other animal designated by such  
22 veterinarian as a food animal."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.