

Senate Bill 257

By: Senator Heath of the 31st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

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

"4-1-7.

Prior to the filing of criminal charges for a violation under Code Section 16-12-4 with regard to conduct involving animal husbandry, a law enforcement officer shall consult with a veterinarian employed by the department or a licensed and accredited veterinarian approved by the Commissioner to confirm whether or not such conduct is otherwise permitted under the laws of this state or of the United States."

**SECTION 2.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.