

Senate Bill 587

By: Senators Still of the 48th, Dickerson of the 21st, Summers of the 13th, Albers of the 56th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding offenses against public health and morals, so as to
3 provide for the establishment of an animal cruelty database; to provide for purpose and
4 funding; to require clerks of court to transmit certain conviction and sentencing information
5 to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia; to require the Prosecuting
6 Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia to create, administer, and maintain such database;
7 to provide for minimum requirements; to provide for reporting and forms; to provide for
8 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 1 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 general provisions regarding offenses against public health and morals, is amended in Code
13 Section 16-12-4, relating to cruelty to animals, by adding a new subsection to read as
14 follows:

15 "(i)(1) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly or other available funding, by
16 January 1, 2027, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia shall create,

17 administer, and maintain on its website a state-wide, publicly searchable animal cruelty
18 database. The primary purpose of such database shall be to assist animal shelters, animal
19 protection and control agencies, and other organizations and members of the public
20 involved in animal placement determinations in screening prospective owners and
21 preventing animals from being placed in dangerous situations. At minimum, such
22 database shall:

23 (A) List the full names of each individual who has been convicted of or entered a plea
24 of guilty or nolo contendere to any violation of this Code section or Code Section
25 16-6-6, 16-7-21.2, 16-11-107, or 16-12-37;

26 (B) Be accessible at no cost; and

27 (C) Be updated no less than monthly.

28 (2) When a person is convicted of an offense identified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph
29 (1) of this subsection, the clerk of the court shall electronically transmit a copy of such
30 conviction and sentence to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia
31 within 60 days of entry of such conviction and sentence.

32 (3) The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia shall be authorized to
33 solicit input from state law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys in determining
34 information to be included in the animal cruelty database. All state law enforcement,
35 prosecution and corrections agencies, offices, and departments shall cooperate with and
36 shall provide in a timely manner any information acquired relating to a violation
37 described in subparagraph (1)(A) of this subsection to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
38 of the State of Georgia to be included in the animal cruelty database in a format
39 prescribed by such council pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection.

40 (4) The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia shall be authorized to
41 create and promulgate a uniform reporting form to be used by state law enforcement,
42 prosecution and corrections agencies, offices, and departments in reporting information
43 for inclusion in the animal cruelty database."

44

SECTION 2.

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