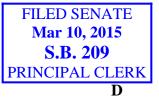
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2015



SENATE DRS45088-TQf-2 (02/11)

Short Title:	Responsible Breeding/Prevent Cruelty.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Wade, Rabon, and Brock (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED			
2	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ANIMAL WELFARE HOTLINE AND WEB SITE WITHIN			
3	THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND TO ESTABLISH A COURT FEE TO			
4	SUPPORT THE INVESTIGATION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY VIOLATIONS.			
5	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:			
6	SECTION 1. Article 1 of Chapter 114 of the General Statutes is amended by			
7	adding a new section to read:			
8	"§ 114-8.7. Reports of animal cruelty and animal welfare violations.			
9	(a) The Attorney General shall establish a hotline, to be known as the "NC Pets We			
10	Care Hotline," to receive reports of allegations of animal cruelty or violations of the Animal			
11	Welfare Act, Article 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statutes, by means including telephone,			
12	electronic mail, and Internet Web site. The Attorney General shall periodically publicize the			
13	hotline telephone number, electronic mail address, Internet Web site address, and any other			
14	means by which the Attorney General may receive reports of allegations of animal cruelty or			
15	violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Individuals who make a report under this section shall			
16	remain anonymous unless the individual affirmatively consents to having his or her identity			
17	disclosed.			
18	(b) When the Attorney General receives allegations involving activity that the Attorney			
19	General determines may involve cruelty to animals in violation of Article 47 of Chapter 14 of			
20	the General Statutes, the allegations shall be referred to the appropriate local law enforcement			
21	agency for the unit or units of local government within which the violations are alleged to have			
22	occurred. When the Attorney General receives allegations involving activity that the Attorney			
23	General determines may involve violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the allegations shall be			
24	referred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Attorney General shall			
25	record the total number of reports received on the hotline and the number of reports received			
26	against any individual on the hotline."			
27	SECTION 2. G.S. 7A-304(a) reads as rewritten:			
28	"§ 7A-304. Costs in criminal actions.			
29	(a) In every criminal case in the superior or district court, wherein the defendant is			
30	convicted, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed against the			
31	prosecuting witness, the following costs shall be assessed and collected. No costs may be			
32 33	assessed when a case is dismissed. Only upon entry of a written order, supported by findings of fact and conclusions of law, determining that there is just cause, the court may (i) write court			
33 34	fact and conclusions of law, determining that there is just cause, the court may (i) waive costs			
34	assessed under this section or (ii) waive or reduce costs assessed under subdivision (7), (8),			

35 (8a), (11), (12), or (13) of this section.

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	General Assemb	ly of North Carolina	Session 2015
1	<u>(14)</u>	For support of law enforcement in the investigation of vio	lations of Article
2		47 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes and Animal Welfa	re Act violations,
3		the district or superior court judge shall, upon conviction	of the defendant,
4		order payment of the sum of two hundred fifty dollars	(\$250.00) to be
5		remitted to the general fund of the local governmental unit	that investigated
6		the crime to be used for local law enforcement."	
7	SECT	TON 3. Section 2 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2	2016, and applies
8	to fees assessed or collected on or after that date. The remainder of this act becomes effective		
9	when it becomes	law.	