

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 209

Short Title: Responsible Breeding/Prevent Cruelty. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Wade, Rabon, Brock (Primary Sponsors); B. Jackson, Krawiec, Lee, Rabin, Smith-Ingram, and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 11, 2015

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 assessed when a case is dismissed. Only upon entry of a written order, supported by findings of
33 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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(14) For support of law enforcement in the investigation of violations of Article 47 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes and Animal Welfare Act violations, the district or superior court judge shall, upon conviction of the defendant, order payment of the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) to be remitted to the general fund of the local governmental unit that investigated the crime to be used for local law enforcement."

SECTION 3. Section 2 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2016, and applies to fees assessed or collected on or after that date. The remainder of this act becomes effective when it becomes law.