

\* \* \*Animal Shelter Working Group\* \* \*

Section 26a of Act No. 39 of 2015

Sec. 26a. ANIMAL SHELTER WORKING GROUP

(a) Creation. There is created an Animal Shelter Working Group for the purpose of making a recommendation to the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products and the Senate Committee on Agriculture regarding the appropriate statutory standards and requirements for adequate shelter of animals.

(b) Membership. The Animal Shelter Working Group shall be composed of:

(1) the Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products or designee;

(2) a representative of the Vermont Humane Federation (VHF), to be appointed by the VHF;

(3) a representative of the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, to be appointed by the Association; and

(4) a representative of the Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs, to be appointed by the Federation.

(c) Additional members. The members of the Animal Shelter Working Group may vote to add additional members to the Working Group. Additional members shall have the same powers and authority of members designated under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Purpose. The Animal Shelter Working shall convene to propose draft legislation designed to amend and improve the statutory requirements for adequate shelter of animals in the State of Vermont.

(e) Assistance. For purposes of scheduling meetings and preparing recommended legislation, the Animal Shelter Working Group shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(f) Report. On or before January 15, 2016, the Animal Shelter Working Group shall submit to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products a written report containing the findings of the Animal Shelter Working Group. The report shall include recommendations as to whether and how the existing State requirements for the shelter of animals should be amended. The report may be in the form of proposed legislation.

(g) Meetings.

(1) The Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products or designee shall be the Chair of the working group.

(2) The Chair shall call all meetings of the Animal Shelter Working Group, the first of which shall occur on or before September 1, 2015.

(h) Reimbursement. Members of the Animal Shelter Working Group shall not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses for participation in the Working Group.