



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Animal Shelter Working Group**

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

**Members Present:** Rep. John Bartholomew, Joanne Bourbeau, Deb Brown, and Lisa Nelson. All members participated by phone.

**Staff Present:** Michael O'Grady, Office of Legislative Council. Staff was located in Room 31 of the Vermont State House.

**Also Present:** No other person was present at the meeting.

**Recording:** Digital recording on file with the Office of Legislative Council. Available upon request.

**Convene**

At 10:30 a.m., Rep. Bartholomew convened the meeting via conference call.

**Member Identification**

As required under the Vermont Open Meeting Law for meetings held electronically, the members of the Animal Shelter Working Group (Working Group) identified themselves.

**Review and Approve Minutes**

Joanne Bourbeau moved to approve the minutes of the September 22 meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group approved the September 22 minutes.

**Review and Markup of Proposed Legislation**

Members of the Working Group reviewed amendments to a draft bill regarding the shelter of dogs and cats and prepared in the name of Rep. Bartholomew. (See Doc. # 310403 Dr. 4.1). Dr. Nelson requested changes to Draft 4.1.

**Participation on Conference Call**

Michael O'Grady interrupted the Working Group's discussion of the revisions to Draft 4.1 to ask the Working Group whether a member of the media who had requested the conference call number could participate in the meeting via the conference call number. Rep. Bartholomew reminded the Working Group that the Group had decided at its initial meeting that they would not allow members of the public to participate on the conference call because of inability to control participation or know who was participating. Members of the public could participate in the meeting by attending the meeting in Room 31 of the State House. The Working Group agreed to maintain its original position and not provide the conference call number to the public.

### **Further Review of Proposed Legislation**

The Working Group continued its discussion of Dr. Nelson's proposed revisions to Draft 4.1. The Working Group agreed to make two changes to Draft 4.1.

### **Approval of Draft 4.1 with Requested Changes**

Joanne Bourbeau moved to approve Draft 4.1 with the requested changes as the Working Group's final recommendations. The vote of the Working Group was held by roll. All members voted to approve Draft 4.1 with the requested changes as the final recommendations of the Working Group.

### **Discussion of Possible Review by General Assembly**

Rep. Bartholomew discussed the potential for review of the Working Group's recommendations by the General Assembly, the potential time frame for legislative review, and his desire that all members of the Working Group testify when the recommendations are reviewed by the General Assembly.

### **Adjournment**

At 11:15 a.m. the Working Group adjourned. The Working Group did not schedule a future meeting.