



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Dean G. Skelos

Senate Passes Legislation to Create Registry for Convicted Animal Abusers

DEAN G. SKELOS June 17, 2013

Senator Dean Skelos announced that the New York State Senate has passed a bill that would require those who violate Buster's Law by abusing animals be added to a registry of animal abusers. The bill (S2305A) would also require those convicted under Buster's Law undergo a psychiatric evaluation and would ban them from ever owning a pet again.

Senator Skelos supported Buster's Law, enacted in 1999, which made animal cruelty in New York State a felony. The law was named after a cat that was doused in kerosene and lit on fire in 1997. This legislation expands on that law to include the animal abuse registry.

"I am proud that we passed common-sense legislation that will ensure the safety of more pets and companion animals," said Senator Skelos. "On the heels of New York's Animal Advocacy Day, where so many dedicated animal lovers lobbied for the passage of this bill, we have sent a message that we protect New York State's families, and that includes our beloved pets. Anyone who abuses them should pay a price, including never owning a pet again.

The animal abusers registry would contain the names and addresses of persons convicted of violating Buster's Law in New York State and will be compiled by the division of criminal justice services. By maintaining the registry with current information and providing easy accessibility to the public, those involved in the sale or adoption of animals can refer to the registry before allowing an individual to take ownership of an animal.

"Many times people who commit crimes against animals go on to commit crimes against people," said Senator Skelos. "We can take these preventative measures now to crack down on people with violent and abusive tendencies."

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.

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