

HB 1164 - AS INTRODUCED

2020 SESSION

20-2206

08/04

HOUSE BILL ***1164***

AN ACT concerning support for cats and dogs that are neglected or treated cruelly.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burroughs, Carr. 1; Rep. Rich, Straf. 18; Rep. Abbott, Ches. 1; Rep. Schultz,
Merr. 18; Rep. Bushway, Rock. 21; Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

 This bill creates a special advocate for cats and dogs that are neglected or otherwise treated cruelly.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

AN ACT concerning support for cats and dogs that are neglected or treated cruelly.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Animal Cruelty and Neglect; Special Advocate. Amend RSA 644 by inserting
2 after section 8-g the following new section:

3 644:8-h Animal Cruelty and Neglect; Special Advocate.

4 I. In all proceedings for violations of RSA 644:8, the court may upon its own motion or the
5 motion of any party appoint a special advocate to represent the interests of and involving the welfare
6 or custody of any cat or dog that was the victim of such violation. The court may, in its order of
7 appointment, specify the concerns to be addressed by the special advocate and otherwise limit the
8 scope of the appointment. The special advocate may be appointed to continue to serve after the final
9 disposition of the case.

10 II. Any person accepting appointment as special advocate shall agree to serve as an officer of
11 the court and shall have such standing in the proceedings as the court deems appropriate and may,
12 upon approval of the court, utilize the service of others found necessary by the court to represent the
13 interests and welfare of the cat or dog.

14 III. The special advocate may:

15 (a) Monitor the case;

16 (b) Consult any individual with information that could aid the judge or fact finder and
17 review records relating to the condition of the cat or dog and the defendant's actions, including, but
18 not limited to, records from animal control officers, veterinarians, and police officers;

19 (c) Attend hearings; and

20 (d) Present information or recommendations to the court pertinent to determinations
21 that relate to the interests of justice, provided such information and recommendations shall be based
22 solely upon the duties undertaken pursuant to this section.

23 IV. The commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food shall compile and
24 maintain a list of attorneys and law students with knowledge of animal issues and the legal system.
25 Such attorneys and law students shall be eligible to serve on a voluntary basis as advocates under
26 this section.

27 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.