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S.B. 130
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Antani

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SUMMARY

- Grants a person immunity from the crime of theft and civil immunity for damages for possessing a lost animal under certain circumstances.
- Except in the case of gross negligence, grants a licensed veterinarian civil immunity for any damages to an ill or injured animal if the veterinarian renders emergency treatment without compensation and without authorization of the animal's owner.
- Names the bill Khloey's Law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Animal-related immunities

Possessing a lost animal

The bill grants a person immunity from the crime of theft and civil immunity for damages for possessing a domestic animal that appears to be lost if the following apply:

1. The person contacts the local dog warden or any other law enforcement officer within 24 hours after initially possessing the animal;
2. The prosecution or plaintiff does not show evidence that the person recklessly possessed the animal and does not believe the animal to be lost; and
3. For civil immunity, the person does not intentionally cause damage to the animal.¹

¹ R.C. 2913.021(A) to (D).

Veterinarians

The bill grants immunity from damages to a licensed veterinarian who renders emergency treatment to an ill or injured animal if both of the following apply:

1. The veterinarian does not receive compensation for rendering the treatment; and
2. The veterinarian undertakes the treatment either on the veterinarian’s own initiative or at the request of a person other than the animal’s owner.

The immunity does not apply in the case of gross negligence. The bill also states that if a veterinarian performs euthanasia on the ill or injured animal, it is presumed that it was a humane act necessary to relieve pain and suffering.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-16-21

S0130-I-134/ar

² R.C. 2913.021(E).