



Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Animal Law Section

Contact Person:

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Other:

US Congress House Report 108-576 accompanying H.R. 4754

Date position was adopted:

May 31--June 6, 2005

Process used to take the ideological position:

Circulated via email to Section Council listserv per procedure that has previously been authorized by the Council

Number of members in the decision-making body:

16

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

11 in favor

0 opposed

5 did not vote

FOR SECTIONS ONLY:

- ✓ This subject matter of this position is within the jurisdiction of the section.
- ✓ The position was adopted in accordance with the Section's bylaws.
- ✓ The requirements of SBM Bylaw Article VIII have been satisfied.

If the boxes above are checked, SBM will notify the Section when this notice is received, at which time the Section may advocate the position.

Position:

H.Rpt. 108-576 was prepared by the US House Appropriations Committee in connection with H.R. 4754. The relevant portion of that report was directed to the FBI, and stated that the crime reporting system being developed by the FBI "should be capable of reporting on the incidence of animal cruelty crimes" by making animal cruelty offenses a separate category. The report: (1) directed the FBI to recommend whether separate reporting of these crimes should also be extended to the reporting system currently in use; and (2) to "make recommendations concerning whether animal cruelty crimes should be considered as a crime against society as opposed to a crime against property."

The Animal Law Section Council supports (1) the separate reporting of animal cruelty crimes being extended to the existing system; and (2) categorizing these crimes as crimes against society rather than against property.

The text (may be provided by hyperlink) of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report:

Link to the relevant portion of House Report 108-576:

http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/?&db_id=cp108&sid=cp108PfdOE&r_n=hr576.108&item=&sel=TOC_65845&

The relevant text is:

"N-DEx- The Committee understands that the FBI is currently developing an information sharing system called the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEx). Once implemented, the N-DEx will deliver enhanced analysis of criminal justice data, improving law enforcement's ability to detect, investigate, link, predict, prevent, and solve crimes and report statistics. The Committee believes that N-DEx should be capable of reporting on the incidence of animal cruelty crimes. Further, the Committee directs the FBI, in coordination with the Criminal Justice Information Services Division's Advisory Policy Board (APB), to provide a report to the Committee on the advantages and disadvantages of adding animal cruelty crimes as a crime category in the Uniform Crime Report. The report shall discuss adding animal cruelty crimes as a category only for State and local agencies that are implementing the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in the future. The report shall also make recommendations concerning whether animal cruelty crimes should be considered as a crime against society as opposed to a crime against property. The Committee directs this report to be submitted within 180 days of enactment of this Act."