

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 143
By: Harris
Criminal Justice
3-25-97
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law provides that it is a Class A misdemeanor if a person is convicted of cruelty to animals. It is hoped that increasing the penalty will deter incidents involving cruelty to animals. This bill will increase the punishment to a state jail felony if the person has previously been convicted two times of cruelty to animals.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 143 increases the punishment for the offense of cruelty to animals if a person has previously been convicted twice of cruelty to animals.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 42.09(d), Penal Code, to provide that a person commits a Class A misdemeanor if the person is cruel to an animal, except that the person commits a state jail felony if the person has previously been convicted twice of cruelty to animals.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1.

Amends Section 42.09(d), Penal Code, to increase the punishment from a third degree felony to a state jail felony if the person has previously been convicted twice for the offense of cruelty to animals.