

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

SESSION LAW 2007-232
HOUSE BILL 1359

AN ACT TO PROVIDE VETERINARIANS WITH IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY
FOR REPORTING ANIMAL CRUELTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 47 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 14-360.1. Immunity for veterinarian reporting animal cruelty.

Any veterinarian licensed in this State who has reasonable cause to believe that an animal has been the subject of animal cruelty in violation of G.S. 14-360 and who makes a report of animal cruelty, or who participates in any investigation or testifies in any judicial proceeding that arises from a report of animal cruelty, shall be immune from civil liability, criminal liability, and liability from professional disciplinary action and shall not be in breach of any veterinarian-patient confidentiality, unless the veterinarian acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose. It shall be a rebuttable presumption that the veterinarian acted in good faith. A failure by a veterinarian to make a report of animal cruelty shall not constitute grounds for disciplinary action under G.S. 90-187.8."

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 2007.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 9th day of July, 2007.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

s/ Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved 11:50 a.m. this 18th day of July, 2007