

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 903

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires veterinarians at for-profit veterinary facilities to provide written notification concerning absence of supervision after normal business hours; designated as “Betsy’s Law.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate.



1 AN ACT concerning after normal business hours supervision of
2 domestic companion animals at for-profit veterinary facilities,
3 designated as Betsy’s Law, and supplementing Title 45 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

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9 1. a. Every veterinary facility in the State shall post its normal
10 business hours in a conspicuous location easily visible to the public.

11 b. (1) A veterinarian overseeing the care of a domestic
12 companion animal at a veterinary facility that does not provide
13 domestic companion animals with supervision after normal business
14 hours by a person physically on the premises shall provide written
15 notification to each person bringing a domestic companion animal
16 to the veterinary facility for care or treatment. The written
17 notification may be provided as a sign posted next to the posting
18 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, as part of a sign
19 used to meet the posting requirement of that subsection, or on an
20 intake form provided to each person bringing a domestic companion
21 animal to the veterinary facility.

22 (2) The written notification provided in accordance with
23 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include the following specific
24 language:

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26 “This veterinary facility does NOT
27 provide supervision for animals after
28 normal business hours by a person
29 physically on these premises.”

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31 This language shall be printed in no less than 12-point font in an
32 intake form and no less than 24-point font on a posted sign.

33 c. As used in this section:

34 “Domestic companion animal” means any animal commonly
35 referred to as a “pet,” which has been bought, bred, raised or
36 otherwise acquired, in accordance with local ordinances and State
37 and federal law, for the primary purpose of providing
38 companionship to the owner, rather than for business or agricultural
39 purposes.

40 “Normal business hours” means the times posted at a veterinary
41 facility indicating the hours that the veterinary facility is open for
42 business with supervising staff available.

43 “Veterinarian” means any person engaged in the licensed
44 practice of veterinary medicine as defined by R.S.45:16-8.1.

45 “Veterinary facility” means any place or establishment, operated
46 on a for-profit basis, where a domestic companion animal, which is
47 not owned by either the proprietor or care-giving veterinarian, is

1 treated, temporarily sheltered, fed, and watered for veterinary care
2 purposes. “Veterinary facility” may include an animal or veterinary
3 facility as defined in section 1 of P.L.1983, c. 98 (C.45:16-1.1).

4 d. A veterinarian who fails or refuses to comply with the
5 provisions of this section shall be subject to a public reprimand by
6 the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and any other
7 penalties the board imposes.

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9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This floor substitute, designated as “Betsy’s Law,” requires a
15 veterinarian at a veterinary facility to provide written notification to
16 a pet owner if a pet receiving care or treatment at the veterinary
17 facility will not be supervised after normal business hours by a
18 person physically on the premises.

19 The floor substitute requires every veterinary facility in the State
20 to post its normal business hours in a conspicuous location that is
21 easily visible to the public. The floor substitute specifies that the
22 required written notification concerning the lack of supervision of a
23 pet after normal business hours may be provided as a sign, part of a
24 sign, or on an intake form, with the following specific language:

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“This veterinary facility does NOT
provide supervision for animals after
normal business hours by a person
physically on these premises.”

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The bill specifies this language must be printed in no less than
12-point font in an intake form and no less than 24-point font on a
posted sign.

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Finally, the floor substitute provides that a veterinarian who
refuses or fails to comply with the floor substitute’s requirements is
subject to a public reprimand by the State Board of Veterinary
Medical Examiners, and any other penalties the board imposes.