

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1144 Session of
2026INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, BOSCOLA, MASTRIANO, PENNYCUICK,
CULVER, VOGEL AND J. WARD, JANUARY 20, 2026

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 20, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, providing
3 for sentencing for certain aggravated cruelty to animal
4 offenses.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 9720.9. Sentencing for certain aggravated cruelty to animal
10 offenses.

11 (a) Sentencing enhancement.--The Pennsylvania Commission on
12 Sentencing, in accordance with section 2154 (relating to
13 adoption of guidelines for sentencing), shall provide for a
14 sentence enhancement within its guidelines for an offense under
15 18 Pa.C.S. § 5534(a)(2) (relating to aggravated cruelty to
16 animal) specifying variations from the range of sentences
17 applicable based on the aggravating circumstance of the offense
18 committed using a deadly weapon.

19 (b) Definition.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Deadly weapon." Any of the following:

4 (1) A firearm as defined under section 9712(e) (relating
5 to sentences for offenses committed with firearms), whether
6 loaded or unloaded.

7 (2) A dangerous weapon as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 913(f)
8 (relating to possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon
9 in court facility).

10 (3) Any device, implement or instrumentality capable of
11 producing death or serious bodily injury.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.