



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Bonacic

Senator Bonacic Announces Senate Passage of Legislation to Create Registry of Convicted Animal Abusers

JOHN J. BONACIC June 28, 2013

Senator John J. Bonacic (R/C/I-Mt. Hope) announced that the New York State Senate recently passed legislation that would create a statewide registry of convicted animal abusers who violate Buster's Law.

"An animal is not just a piece of property; they are loving, feeling creatures who become part of your family. Heartless and sick people who cruelly abuse and torture animals should never, ever be allowed to own a pet again. Creating a statewide registry of convicted animal abusers would help prevent these individuals from adopting or owning a pet again and protect innocent animals who cannot protect themselves," said Senator Bonacic, who supported the legislation.

Buster's Law, which was enacted in 1999, created felony charges for individuals who abuse animals in an especially depraved or sadistic manner which causes them extreme physical pain. The legislation passed by the Senate (S2305A) would create a statewide registry of all offenders convicted under the law. The animal abusers registry would be compiled by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. By maintaining the registry with current information and providing easy accessibility to the public, those involved in the sale or adoption of animals could refer to the registry before allowing an individual to take ownership of an animal.

Abuse of animals has also proven to be a gateway to acts of violence towards people. Creating a registry would not only provide increased protection to animals, but would also establish an organized registry of persons who may be more inclined to inflict violent behavior on a human.

In addition, the legislation would require anyone convicted of violating Buster's Law to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and prohibit them from ever owning a pet again.