



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Troy Singleton
400 North Church Street, Suite 260
Moorestown, NJ 08057

The Honorable Carol A. Murphy
504 Route 130 North, Suite 100
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Re: S333 (Singleton) / A2826 (Murphy) – Prohibits persons convicted of criminal animal cruelty offenses from owning domestic companion animals and from working or volunteering at animal-related enterprises; designated as “Moose’s Law”

Dear Senator Singleton and Assemblywoman Murphy:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I write to convey its support for the recently revised S333 (Singleton) / A2826 (Murphy), known as “Moose’s Law.” This bill, as amended, reflects a balanced approach to animal cruelty offenses with penalties based on the nature and severity of the crime.

This bill is an important measure to ensure that individuals convicted of significant criminal animal cruelty offenses are prohibited from owning or working with animals. Currently, there is no existing statute in New Jersey that bans the possession of animals following an individual’s animal cruelty conviction. Without the implementation of such a measure, individuals convicted of animal cruelty offenses are free to continue to purchase, adopt or work with animals. This proposed legislation is necessary to help prevent animal abusers with animal cruelty convictions from having the means to potentially cause harm to another animal.

The recent amendments ameliorate the association’s past concerns that less severe animal cruelty crimes could result in disproportionate punishments by addressing penalties on a case-by-case basis. The discretion afforded in this bill gives courts the tools necessary to address the nature and severity of the cases before them.

For the foregoing reasons, the NJSBA supports S333/A2826. On behalf of the association, I thank you for your continued leadership.

Very truly yours,

/s/ LISA CHAPLAND

Lisa Chapland

Senior Managing Director, Government Affairs

cc: Angela Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director
Domenick Carmagnola, President
Jeralyn L. Lawrence, President-Elect