



## 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 401

December 1, 2011 - Introduced by Representatives WYNN, SINICKI, SPANBAUER, BERCEAU, KNILANS and PASCH, cosponsored by Senators CARPENTER and T. CULLEN. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Corrections.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 951.18 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** felony mistreatment  
2 of an animal and providing a penalty.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may treat an animal in a cruel manner. The penalties for a treating an animal in a cruel matter depend upon the extent of injury to the animal and whether the person acted negligently or intentionally. Under current law, a person who intentionally treats an animal in a cruel manner resulting in mutilation, disfigurement, or death to the animal, is guilty of a Class I felony and may be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned for up to three years and six months, or both.

Under this bill, a person who intentionally treats an animal in a cruel manner resulting in great bodily harm, mutilation, disfigurement, or death to the animal is guilty of a Class I felony. Great bodily harm means bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious permanent disfigurement, or which causes a permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ or other serious bodily injury.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted.

