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SENATE BILL 339

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane Garcia

AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS; INCREASING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY TO ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR SEIZURE OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INJURY TO OR HARASSMENT OF A POLICE DOG, POLICE HORSE OR FIRE DOG; REPEALING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 30-18-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963, Chapter 303, Section 18-1) is repealed and a new Section 30-18-1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

- [NEW MATERIAL] CRUELTY TO ANIMALS--EXTREME "30-18-1. CRUELTY TO ANI MALS--PENALTI ES--EXCEPTI ONS. --
 - Cruelty to animals consists of a person:
- negligently mistreating, injuring, killing without lawful justification or tormenting an animal; . 126666. 1

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- overdriving, overworking, neglecting, **(2)** abandoning or failing to provide necessary sustenance to an animal under that person's custody or control.
- As used in Subsection A of this section, В. "lawful justification" means:
- **(1)** humanely destroying a sick or injured animal; or
- **(2)** protecting a person or animal from death or injury due to an attack by another animal.
- Whoever commits cruelty to animals is guilty of C. a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Upon a second or subsequent conviction for committing cruelty to animals, the offender is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.
- D. Extreme cruelty to animals consists of a person:
- intentionally or maliciously torturing, **(1)** mutilating, injuring or poisoning an animal; or
 - cruelly killing an animal. **(2)**
- E. Whoever commits extreme cruelty to animals is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.

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F. The court may order a person convicted for
committing cruelty to animals to participate in an animal
cruelty prevention program or an animal cruelty education
program. The court may also order a person convicted for
committing cruelty to animals or extreme cruelty to animals to
obtain psychological counseling for treatment of a mental
health disorder if, in the court's judgment, the mental health
disorder contributed to the commission of the criminal
offense. The offender shall bear the expense of participating
in an animal cruelty prevention program, animal cruelty
education program or psychological counseling ordered by the
court.

- G. The court may order that a person convicted for committing extreme cruelty to animals or cruelty to animals be prohibited from owning or possessing an animal for a period of time determined by the court.
 - H. The provisions of this section do not apply to:
- (1) fishing, hunting, falconry, taking and trapping, as provided in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978;
- (2) the practice of veterinary medicine, as provided in Chapter 61, Article 14 NMSA 1978;
- (3) rodent or pest control, as provided in Chapter 77, Article 15 NMSA 1978;
- $\mbox{(4) the treatment of livestock and other} \\ \mbox{animals used on farms and ranches for the production of food,} \\ \mbox{. 126666. 1}$

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fiber or other agricultural products, when the treatment is in accordance with commonly accepted agricultural animal husbandry practices;

- (5) the use of commonly accepted rodeo practices;
- (6) research facilities, intermediate handlers, carriers and exhibitors licensed pursuant to the provisions of 7 U.S.C. Section 2136; or
- (7) other similar activities not otherwise prohibited by law.
- I. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to prohibit cockfighting in New Mexico."
- Section 2. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SEIZURE OF ANIMALS. --

- A. A peace officer, animal control officer or livestock inspector who reasonably believes that the life or health of an animal is endangered due to cruel treatment by the animal's owner may apply to the district court, magistrate court or the metropolitan court, in the county where the animal is located, for a warrant to seize the animal.
- B. If the district court, magistrate court or metropolitan court finds probable cause that the animal is being cruelly treated, the court shall issue a warrant for the seizure of the animal. The court shall also schedule a

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hearing on the matter within ten days following seizure of the animal. Written notice regarding the time and location of the hearing shall be provided to the owner of the seized animal. If the animal is a type of livestock, written notice shall also be provided to the New Mexico livestock board. If the owner of the animal cannot be determined, a written notice regarding the circumstances of the seizure shall be posted where the animal was seized at the time the seizure occurred. After a hearing has been scheduled, the time and location of the hearing shall be posted where the animal was seized.

- C. If the district court, magistrate court or the metropolitan court finds that the seized animal is not being cruelly treated and that the animal's owner is able to adequately provide for the animal, the court shall return the animal to its owner.
- D. If the district court, magistrate court or metropolitan court finds that the seized animal is being cruelly treated or that the animal's owner is unable to adequately provide for the animal, the court shall not return the animal to its owner and the court shall determine the proper care for the animal. The court may place the animal for adoption, place the animal with an animal shelter or animal welfare organization, provide for the sale of the animal at public auction or provide for the humane destruction of the animal. Upon a finding that the animal's owner treated

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the animal cruelly or that the owner is unable to adequately provide for the animal, the owner shall be liable for the cost of boarding the animal and all veterinary care provided to the animal."

Section 3. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] INJURY TO A POLICE DOG, POLICE HORSE OR FIRE DOG. -- HARASSMENT OF A POLICE DOG, POLICE HORSE OR FIRE DOG. --

A. As used in this section:

- (1) "fire dog" means a dog used by a fire department, special fire district or the state fire marshal for the primary purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable materials or the investigation of fires;
- (2) "police dog" means a dog used by a law enforcement or corrections agency that is specially trained for law enforcement or corrections work in the areas of tracking, suspect apprehension, crowd control or drug or explosives detection; and
- (3) "police horse" means a horse that is used by a law enforcement or corrections agency for law enforcement or corrections work.
- B. Injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog consists of willfully and maliciously:
- (1) striking, beating, kicking, cutting,

stabbing, shooting or administering poison or other harmful substance to a police dog, police horse or fire dog; or

- (2) throwing or placing an object or substance in a manner that is likely to produce injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog.
- C. Whoever commits injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog when the injury causes the animal minor physical injury or pain is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.
- D. Whoever commits injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog when the injury causes the animal serious physical injury or death or directly causes the destruction of the animal is guilty of a third degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.
- E. A person convicted of injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog shall be ordered to make restitution for the animal's veterinary bills or replacement costs of the animal if it is permanently disabled, killed or destroyed.
- F. Harassment of a police dog, police horse or fire dog consists of a person willfully and maliciously interfering with or obstructing a police dog, police horse or fire dog by frightening, agitating, harassing or hindering the animal.

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G. Whoever commits harassment of a police dog,
police horse or fire dog is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall
be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1
NMSA 1978

H. Whoever commits harassment of a police dog, police horse or fire dog that results in bodily injury to a person not an accomplice to the criminal offense is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978."

Section 4. REPEAL. -- Sections 30-18-2 and 30-18-2.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963, Chapter 303, Section 18-2 and Laws 1981, Chapter 226, Section 1) are repealed.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999.

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999 February 24, 1999 Mr. President: Your **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred **SENATE BILL 339** has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO NOT PASS**, but that SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE BILL 339** DO PASS, and thence referred to the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. Respectfully submitted,

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11	The roll	call vote was <u>4</u> For <u></u>	2 Agai nst	
12	Yes:	4		
13	No:	Boitano, Leavell		
14	Excused:	Ingle, Stockard, Smith		
15	Absent:	None		
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SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 339

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS; INCREASING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY
TO ANIMALS; PROVIDING FOR SEIZURE OF ANIMALS; PROVIDING
CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INJURY TO OR HARASSMENT OF A POLICE
DOG, POLICE HORSE OR FIRE DOG; REPEALING AND ENACTING SECTIONS
OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 30-18-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963, Chapter 303, Section 18-1) is repealed and a new Section 30-18-1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

- "30-18-1. [NEW MATERIAL] CRUELTY TO ANIMALS--EXTREME
 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS--PENALTIES--EXCEPTIONS.--
 - A. Cruelty to animals consists of a person:
- (1) negligently mistreating, injuring, killing without lawful justification or tormenting an animal; or. 128085.1

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- (2) overdriving, overworking, neglecting, abandoning or failing to provide necessary sustenance to an animal under that person's custody or control.
- B. As used in Subsection A of this section, "lawful justification" means:
- (1) humanely destroying a sick or injured animal; or
- (2) protecting a person or animal from death or injury due to an attack by another animal.
- C. Whoever commits cruelty to animals is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Upon a second or subsequent conviction for committing cruelty to animals, the offender is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.
 - D. Extreme cruelty to animals consists of a person:
- (1) intentionally or maliciously torturing,mutilating, injuring or poisoning an animal; or
 - (2) cruelly killing an animal.
- E. Whoever commits extreme cruelty to animals is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.
- F. The court may order a person convicted for committing cruelty to animals to participate in an animal cruelty prevention program or an animal cruelty education . 128085.1

program. The court may also order a person convicted for committing cruelty to animals or extreme cruelty to animals to obtain psychological counseling for treatment of a mental health disorder if, in the court's judgment, the mental health disorder contributed to the commission of the criminal offense. The offender shall bear the expense of participating in an animal cruelty prevention program, animal cruelty education program or psychological counseling ordered by the court.

- G. The court may order that a person convicted for committing extreme cruelty to animals or cruelty to animals be prohibited from owning or possessing an animal for a period of time determined by the court.
 - H. The provisions of this section do not apply to:
- (1) fishing, hunting, falconry, taking and trapping, as provided in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978;
- (2) the practice of veterinary medicine, as provided in Chapter 61, Article 14 NMSA 1978;
- (3) rodent or pest control, as provided in Chapter 77, Article 15 NMSA 1978;
- (4) the treatment of livestock and other animals used on farms and ranches for the production of food, fiber or other agricultural products, when the treatment is in accordance with commonly accepted agricultural animal husbandry practices;

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	(5)	the use of commonly accepted r	odeo
practi ces;			

- (6) research facilities, intermediate handlers,carriers and exhibitors licensed pursuant to the provisions of7 U. S. C. Section 2136; or
- (7) other similar activities not otherwise prohibited by law.
- I. If there is a dispute as to what constitutes commonly accepted agricultural animal husbandry practices or commonly accepted rodeo practices, the New Mexico livestock board shall hold a hearing to determine if the practice in question is a commonly accepted agricultural animal husbandry practice or commonly accepted rodeo practice.
- J. The provisions of this section shall not be interpreted to prohibit cockfighting in New Mexico."
- Section 2. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SEIZURE OF ANIMALS--NOTICE. --

- A. A peace officer who reasonably believes that the life or health of an animal is endangered due to cruel treatment may apply to the district court, magistrate court or the metropolitan court in the county where the animal is located for a warrant to seize the animal.
- B. If the court finds probable cause that the animal is being cruelly treated, the court shall issue a warrant for .128085.1

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the seizure of the animal. The court shall also schedule a hearing on the matter as expeditiously as possible within thirty days unless good cause is demonstrated by the state for a later time.

- C. Written notice regarding the time and location of the hearing shall be provided to the owner of the seized animal. The court may order publication of a notice of the hearing in a newspaper closest to the location of the seizure.
- D. If the owner of the animal cannot be determined, a written notice regarding the circumstances of the seizure shall be conspicuously posted where the animal is seized at the time the seizure occurs.
- E. At the option and expense of the owner, the seized animal may be examined by a veterinarian of the owner's choice.
- F. If the animal is a type of livestock, seizure shall be pursuant to Chapter 77, Article 18 NMSA 1978."

Section 3. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DISPOSITION OF SEIZED ANIMALS. --

- A. If the court finds that the seized animal is not being cruelly treated and that the animal's owner is able to adequately provide for the animal, the court shall return the animal to its owner.
- B. If the court finds that the seized animal is . 128085.1

being cruelly treated or that the animal's owner is unable to adequately provide for the animal, the court shall not return the animal to its owner and the court shall determine the proper disposition for the animal.

C. Upon conviction the court shall place the animal for adoption with an animal shelter or animal welfare organization or provide for the humane destruction of the animal."

Section 4. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] COSTS. --

- A. Upon conviction the defendant shall be liable for the cost of boarding the animal and all necessary veterinary examinations and care provided to the animal.
- B. In the absence of a conviction, the seizing agency shall bear the costs of boarding the animal and all necessary veterinary examinations and care of the animal during the pendency of the proceedings."

Section 5. A new section of Chapter 30, Article 18 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] INJURY TO A POLICE DOG, POLICE HORSE OR FIRE DOG. --

- A. As used in this section:
- $\hbox{ (1) "fire dog" means a dog used by a fire } \\ .\ 128085.\ 1$

department, special fire district or the state fire marshal for the primary purpose of aiding in the detection of flammable materials or the investigation of fires;

- (2) "police dog" means a dog used by a law enforcement or corrections agency that is specially trained for law enforcement or corrections work in the areas of tracking, suspect apprehension, crowd control or drug or explosives detection; and
- (3) "police horse" means a horse that is used by a law enforcement or corrections agency for law enforcement or corrections work.
- B. Injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog consists of willfully and with intent to injure or prevent the lawful performance of its official duties:
- (1) striking, beating, kicking, cutting, stabbing, shooting or administering poison or any other harmful substance to a police dog, police horse or fire dog; or
- (2) throwing or placing an object or substance in a manner that is likely to produce injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog.
- C. Whoever commits injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog when the injury causes the animal minor physical injury or pain is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section . 128085.1

31-18-15 NMSA 1978.

 D. Whoever commits injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog when the injury causes the animal serious physical injury or death or directly causes the destruction of the animal is guilty of a third degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.

- E. A person convicted of injury to a police dog, police horse or fire dog shall be ordered to make restitution for the animal's veterinary bills or replacement costs of the animal if it is permanently disabled, killed or destroyed.
- F. Harassment of a police dog, police horse or fire dog consists of a person willfully and maliciously interfering with or obstructing a police dog, police horse or fire dog by frightening, agitating, harassing or hindering the animal.
- G. Whoever commits harassment of a police dog, police horse or fire dog is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978.
- H. Whoever commits harassment of a police dog, police horse or fire dog that results in bodily injury to a person not an accomplice to the criminal offense is guilty of a fourth degree felony and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978.
- I. It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution . 128085.1

brought pursuant to the provisions of this section that a police dog, police horse or fire dog was not handled in accordance with well-recognized national handling procedures or was handled in a manner contrary to its own department's handling policies and procedures."

Section 6. REPEAL. -- Sections 30-18-2 and 30-18-2.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963, Chapter 303, Section 18-2 and Laws 1981, Chapter 226, Section 1) are repealed.

Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999.

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION, 1999

SB 339/a

March 6, 1999

Mr. President:

Your **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 339

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:

- 1. On page 2, line 13, strike "second" and insert in lieu thereof "third".
- 2. On page 2, line 22, strike "cruelly" and insert in lieu thereof "maliciously".

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	3.	0n page	3,	lines	13	through	16,	stri ke	Subsection	G
i n	its	enti retv	and	inser	t i	n lieu t	here	eof:		

- If a child is adjudicated of cruelty to animals, the court shall order an assessment and any necessary psychological counseling or treatment of the child.".
- On page 4, line 4, after "accepted" insert "Mexican 4. and American" and on line 5, after "practices" insert ", unless otherwise prohibited by law".
- On page 6, line 5, after "shall" strike the remainder **5**. of the line, strike all of lines 6 and 7 and insert in lieu thereof "hold a hearing to determine the disposition of the ani mal.".
- On page 6, line 8, strike "shall" and insert in lieu 6. thereof "may".
- On page 6, line 15, strike "shall" and insert in lieu 7. thereof "may".
- On page 8, line 2, strike "fourth degree felony" and insert in lieu thereof "petty misdemeanor".

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9.	On page 8,	line 4,	stri ke	"31-18-15"	and	insert	i n
lieu the	ereof "31-1	9-1".					

- 10. On page 8, line 8, strike "third" and in lieu thereof "fourth".
- 11. On page 8, line 12, strike "shall" and insert in lieu thereof "may".
- 12. On page 9, line 2, strike "fourth degree felony" and insert in lieu thereof "misdemeanor".
- 13. On page 9, line 3, strike "31-18-15" and insert in lieu thereof "31-19-1".

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman

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10	Yes:	7			
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SFC/SB 796 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION March 9, 1999 SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENT number _____ to SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 339, as amended Amendment sponsored by Senator Mark Boitano On page 2, line 2, strike "neglecting". 1. 128798.1

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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION

SF1/SB 339			Page
		 Mark Boitano	
Adopted _		_ Not Adopted	
	(Chief Clerk)	(Chief Clerk)	
	Date		

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4	FORTY- FOURTH LEGI SLATURE
5	SFC/SB 796 FIRST SESSION
6	SFI/SB 339 Page 26
7	FORTY- FOURTH LEGI SLATURE
8	FIRST SESSION, 1999
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12	March 15, 1999
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15	SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENT number to
16	SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
17	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
18	SENATE BILL 339, as
19	amended
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	AMENDMENT sponsored by SENATOR LYONS
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4	FORTY- FOURTH LEGI SLATURE
	FIRST SESSION
5	SFI /SB 339 Page 27
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7	1. On page 2, line 2, strike "overdriving, overworking".
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13	Senator Patrick H. Lyons
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5	SFC/SB 796	FIRST SESSION	
6	SF1/SB 339		Page 28
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6	SF1/SB 339 Page 29
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8	FIRST SESSION, 1999
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12	March 15, 1999
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15	SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENT number to
16	SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
17	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
18	SENATE BILL 339, as
19	amended
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21	AMENDMENT sponsored by SENATOR RAWSON
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SFC/SB 796	FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION
SF1/SB 339	Page 30
1. On	page 1, between lines 22 and 23, insert the
"	As used in this section, animal does not include
	insects or reptiles.".
	Senator Leonard Lee Rawson
Adopted	Not Adopted
	(Chi of Cloub)
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	following:

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5	SFC/SB 796 FIRST SESSION
6	SF1/SB 339 Page 32
7	FORTY- FOURTH LEGI SLATURE
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15	SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENT number to
16	SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
17	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
18	SENATE BILL 339, as
19	amended
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21	AMENDMENT sponsored by SENATOR PAYNE
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4	FORTY- FOURTH LEGI SLATURE
5	FIRST SESSION
6	SF1/SB 339 Page 33
7	1. On page 2, line 13, strike the word "second" and
8	insert the word "fourth".
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13	Senator William H. Payne
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SFC/SB 796	FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION	
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 14, 1999

Mr. Speaker:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

SENATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 339, as amended

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**.

Respectfully submitted,

R. David Pederson, Chairman

SPAC/SB 339

1	Adopted _		Not Adopted	
2	_			
3		(Chief Clerk)	(Chi ef Cl erk)	
4		.		
5		Date		
6	The roll	call vote was <u>9</u> For <u>0</u>	Agai nst	
7	Yes:		_ 0	
8	Excused:	Garcia, Luna, Sanchez		
9	Absent:	None		
10				
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