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Committees: Health - Vice Chair Financial Institutions & Technology Judiciary

Judiciary
Transportation
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee
Select Committee on Gaming
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

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SB 130 Sponsor Testimony Senate Judiciary Committee April 20, 2021

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 130, Khloey's Law, which would grant immunity for possessing a lost pet under certain circumstances.

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent who encountered difficulty getting treatment for a pet in my district. Senate Bill 130 would allow a person who comes across an injured pet animal to take the animal to the veterinarian, and for the veterinarian to treat the animal, without fear of criminal or civil prosecution so long as some reasonable conditions are met. If the person who encounters the animal has contacted the local dog warden or law enforcement within 24 hours of coming across the animal, and they are not recklessly possessing the animal, they would be granted the immunity. If the veterinarian is providing emergency treatment to the injured or sick pet animal, as long as they are not being compensated and are doing it of their own initiative or at the request of the person who encountered the injured animal, they will be provided immunity. If either person acts with gross negligence or a higher mens rea standard, they would not receive the immunity. This bill is a common sense approach to helping save the lives of injured pet animals.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 130 and I am happy to take any questions from the committee.