



PRESS RELEASE

Pruett and Company Pass Georgia Law Protecting Tax Payers from Animal Cruelty Costs

Atlanta, Ga. (May 1, 2016) | Georgia Governor Nathan Deal took a big step to help abused animals in the state when he signed the State Taxpayer Animal Relief Act (STAR-Act), SB 356 into law earlier last week. The legislation establishes a legal process so that anyone who has had his or her animals lawfully seized due to cruelty may be required to pay for the animals' care while the cruelty case is prosecuted. If the defendant refuses to pay, he or she will have to forfeit the animals that can then be placed in a new home.

The Humane Society of the United States (HUSUS) has been pushing for laws nationwide to relieve animal shelter costs in local communities. HUSUS CEO & President, Wayne Parceller notes, "the cost to our cause is in the billions. And that's precisely why we should have policies so that it is the people who exploit animals that pay the freight..."

Parceller also publically thanks Georgia lawmakers Senators Jesse Stone, Michael Williams, and John Albers, and Representatives Rich Golick and Jimmy Pruett for their part in ensuring the legislation passed the General Assembly during the 2016 session.

District 149 Representative Jimmy Pruett says, "I was thrilled to play a role in fighting for this legislation on behalf of Georgia tax payers. It's a law that will serve well for animals, shelters, and taxpayers in our state. Laws, such as this, shift the financial burden of caring for animals from town governments, animal shelters, and taxpayers to the animals' owners, which I believe is only fair."

The newly signed STAR-act will become effective July 1st. For more information regarding HUSUS legislation efforts, please visit, www.humanesociety.org.

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Rep. Pruett serves as the Chairman of the State Planning & Community Affairs Committee and is a member of Appropriations, Economic Development & Tourism, Game, Fish, & Parks, Health & Human Services, Industry and Labor, and MARTOC Committees. He represents the 149th House District which includes Dodge, Telfair, Wheeler and portions of Jeff Davis and Laurens counties. He may be reached at 404.656.7855 or via email at Jimmy.Pruett@house.ga.gov.

