

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 21, 2024  
Subject: Bill Brief for SB 503

Senate Bill 503 increases the criminal penalties for knowingly and maliciously abandoning any animal in any place without making provisions for the proper care of the animal.

The bill amends K.S.A. 21-6412, the criminal code statute that creates the crime of cruelty to animals. Current law in subsection (a) provides that cruelty to animals includes knowingly abandoning any animal in any place without making provisions for its proper care. The bill amends subsection (a) to provide a separate paragraph for such conduct when done knowingly and maliciously.

Current law in subsection (b)(2) provides that knowingly abandoning any animal is a class A nonperson misdemeanor on a first conviction (up to one year in county jail, fine not exceeding \$2,500) and a nonperson felony on a second or subsequent conviction (not less than five days or more than one year of imprisonment in county jail, fine of \$500 to \$2,500). The bill amends subsection (b)(1) to provide that the penalty for knowingly and maliciously abandoning an animal is a nonperson felony with a sentence of not less than 30 days or more than one year of imprisonment in county jail and a fine of \$500 to \$5,000. During the mandatory 30 days of imprisonment, a psychological evaluation is required to assist the court in determining conditions of probation and such conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the completion of an anger management program. These are the same penalties provided under current law for: (1) Knowingly and maliciously killing, injuring, maiming, torturing, burning, or mutilating any animal; or (2) knowingly and maliciously administering any poison to any domestic animal.

The bill would take effect from and after publication in the statute book, July 1, 2024.