

# Resolution No. 672-2021

By Council Members Polensek and  
McCormack

## AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Supporting SB 164 which seeks tougher  
punishments on those who abuse companion  
animals.

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WHEREAS, currently in Ohio, Goddard's Law makes purposely abusing  
companion animals a fifth degree felony; and

WHEREAS, however, actual penalties for such egregious acts have been lenient  
and have not included jail time; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 164 increases the penalties for certain existing animal  
abuse violations and establishes new prohibitions, including making any violation of  
the law a violent offense, so that a judge must impose a prison term on a first offense,  
and these violations are not expungable; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate  
preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council supports SB 164 which seeks tougher  
punishments on those who abuse companion animals.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this  
resolution to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and to all members of the Ohio legislature.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure  
and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to  
Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval  
by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest  
period allowed by law.

MDP:rns  
8/18/2021

