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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5027

#### ***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS AND REQUIRING A STANDARD OF CARE APPLICABLE TO ANIMAL IMPORTERS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits (1) the operation of a substandard domestic animal mill in Connecticut and (2) state-licensed pet shops from selling dogs or cats obtained from such a mill. The bill does not specify the penalty for violations.

The bill also requires the agriculture commissioner, by December 31, 2013, to prescribe the conditions that constitute humane treatment of animals by animal importers. The conditions must include the appropriate shelter, availability of food and water, and standard of care animal importers must provide for imported animals.

By law, animal importers, those who bring dogs or cats into Connecticut for sale, adoption, or transfer, must register with the commissioner and comply with any requirements he prescribes for the health, safety, and humane treatment of imported animals. Violators are not allowed to renew their registration. People acting as animal importers without being properly registered are subject to a fine of up to \$500.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage, except for the provisions concerning substandard domestic animal mills, which are effective July 1, 2013.

#### **SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILL**

The bill defines a “substandard domestic animal mill” as a facility that keeps dogs or cats in Connecticut:

1. where the animals are (a) caged without being allowed daily exercise or (b) not kept dry and reasonably clean;
2. that does not provide the animals (a) adequate protection from the elements, (b) clean and potable water at all times, or (c) proper and nutritious food; or
3. that houses the animals in an enclosure that (a) has floors constructed in a way that does not protect the animals' paws and legs from injury; (b) does not allow them to turn around freely or sit, stand, or lie down comfortably; or (c) is not at least six inches higher than the head of the tallest animal in the enclosure.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/25/2013)