



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Office of Steven K. Reviczky
Commissioner*



**Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of
The Connecticut General Assembly
By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture
March 15, 2013**

**H. B. 5027 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED
FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS**

Chairmen Meyer and Gentile, Vice Chairs Maynard and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

Currently, Connecticut state law (22-354b) requires that, “no pet shop licensee shall purchase a dog or cat for resale from a breeder or other person, firm or corporation located outside of this state that is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and any applicable state agency.”

The vast majority, if not all, puppies offered for sale by pet shops in Connecticut are purchased from suppliers outside of Connecticut and consequently, the Department must rely upon United States Department of Agriculture inspections to insure that breeders and suppliers are meeting federal regulations. It would not be possible for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to determine that suppliers of Connecticut’s pet shops were complying with the requirements set forth in H. B. 5027 without an on-site visit and inspection.

While the Department shares the concerns of the bill’s proponents with respect to the treatment of companion animals we are concerned that the obstacles associated with out of state inspections are insurmountable at this time.