OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7158 (as amended by House "A")*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL KENNELS.**

**SUMMARY**

This bill exempts people who board up to three dogs or cats in their residence from having to obtain a commercial kennel license from the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). Current law requires all commercial kennel operators to obtain a license. The bill also makes a technical correction in the definition of commercial kennel, specifying that it is a place maintained for boarding or grooming dogs or cats.

Under the bill, unless exempted, a commercial kennel operator must obtain a license from DoAg and comply with state regulations concerning public safety, sanitation, disease, and humane treatment of dogs and cats, as well as municipal zoning regulations. The license costs $400 and is renewable biennially.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, people who maintain a commercial kennel and advertise their services must include their license number in each advertisement. Presumably, people who are exempt from commercial kennel licensure may still advertise their boarding services, even though they do not have a license number.

By law, the DoAg commissioner may inspect commercial kennels for compliance with state law and regulations. Violators are subject to fines, license suspension or revocation, or both.

*House Amendment “A” exempts people who board up to three dogs or cats in their residence from having to obtain a commercial kennel license, instead of changing the definition of commercial kennel to mean a place that boards or grooms three or fewer dogs or cats as in the original bill.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION
Environment Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 26  Nay 2  (03/08/2019)