



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 219**

January Session, 2019

Substitute Senate Bill No. 594

*Senate, March 28, 2019*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OR LEASE OF CATS AND DOGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Any contract entered  
2 into on or after October 1, 2019, that is described in subdivision (1) or  
3 (2) of this subsection shall be deemed void: (1) A contract to transfer  
4 ownership of a dog or cat that is contingent upon the making of  
5 payments over a period of time by one party subsequent to the transfer  
6 of possession of such dog or cat to such party, and (2) any contract for  
7 the lease of a dog or cat that provides for or offers the option of the  
8 transfer of ownership of such dog or cat at the end of such lease. The  
9 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be deemed to  
10 apply to any payment to repay an unsecured loan for the purchase of  
11 any dog or cat.

12 (b) In addition to any other remedy provided under state or federal  
13 law, any person who takes possession of a dog or cat that is transferred  
14 pursuant to a contract described in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection

15 (a) of this section shall be deemed the owner of such dog or cat and  
16 shall be entitled to the return of all amounts said person paid pursuant  
17 to such contract.

18 (c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to  
19 any lease or rental of any of the following animals provided such  
20 animal is used in accordance with any applicable provision of federal  
21 or state law or any municipal ordinance: (1) Any purebred dog that is  
22 rented for the purpose of breeding, pursuant to a written lease, when  
23 such lease is recorded with a national purebred dog registry and such  
24 lease is for a specific period of time and contains an end date for such  
25 lease, (2) any animal used in a spectator event, show, exhibition,  
26 motion picture, audiovisual media, including, but not limited to, any  
27 animal exhibition, any racing event, any field trial, polo or any rodeo,  
28 or (3) any working animal that is trained or utilized to perform tasks,  
29 including, but not limited to, guide dogs, security dogs, law  
30 enforcement dogs and any assistance animal.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which bans the activity of pet leasing between pet shops and consumers, has no fiscal impact to the State or municipalities as it concerns the interactions between private entities and individuals.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 594*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OR LEASE OF CATS AND DOGS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill, with limited exceptions, bans the practice of pet leasing. It does this by voiding any contract entered into on or after October 1, 2019, that (1) transfers ownership of a dog or cat contingent on the buyer making periodic payments after taking possession of the animal, other than payments to repay an unsecured loan to buy the animal, or (2) provides for the lease of a dog or cat with the option to buy the animal at the end of the lease term. Anyone taking possession of a dog or cat under such a contract is deemed the animal's owner and entitled to the return of all amounts paid under the contract.

The bill exempts from its ban any lease or rental agreement for certain specified animals, including purebred dogs rented for breeding purposes, show animals, law enforcement dogs, and assistance animals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PET LEASING BAN**

The bill exempts from its pet leasing ban the leasing or renting of the following types of animals if they are used in accordance with federal or state law or local ordinance:

1. a purebred dog rented for breeding purposes, subject to specified conditions (see below);
2. an animal used in a spectator event, show, exhibition, motion picture, or audiovisual media, including an animal exhibition, race, field trial, polo, or rodeo; or

3. a working animal trained or used to perform tasks (e.g., guide dogs, security or law enforcement dogs, and assistance animals).

A purebred dog may be rented for breeding purposes under a written lease that is (1) recorded with a national purebred dog registry and (2) for a specific time period with an end date.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/08/2019)