OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7158

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL KENNELS.

SUMMARY

This bill exempts people who board or groom up to three dogs or cats from the law’s commercial kennel requirements, including those concerning licensure, advertisements, and inspections. It does this by redefining “commercial kennel.” Under current law, a commercial kennel is maintained for boarding and grooming dogs or cats. The bill limits it to a place maintained for boarding or grooming more than three dogs or cats.

Under existing law, a commercial kennel must obtain a license from the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) and comply with state regulations concerning public safety, sanitation, disease, and humane treatment of dogs and cats, as well as municipal zoning regulations. People who maintain a commercial kennel and advertise their services must include their license number in each advertisement. 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 (CGS § 22-344). Additionally, a commercial kennel cannot board a dog or cat unless the animal’s owner presents a certificate of vaccination (CGS § 22-367).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS OF DEFINITION CHANGE

By changing the definition of commercial kennel, the bill also affects a variety of other laws, including the following:

1. CGS § 22-332a, which prohibits hospitals, educational facilities, and laboratories licensed to conduct research with living dogs from purchasing or accepting, without a fee, a living dog from a
Connecticut commercial kennel, among other places;

2. CGS § 22-336, under which municipalities who do not participate in a regional dog pound must maintain a dog pound or enter into an agreement with a suitable facility, which could be a commercial kennel, to detain and impound dogs and other domestic animals;

3. CGS §§ 22-380e and 22-380f, which require a commercial kennel under agreement with a municipality to impound dogs and other domestic animals to participate in the state’s Animal Population Control Program;

4. CGS § 26-49, which allows the energy and environmental protection commissioner to issue a permit to a licensed commercial kennel, among others, to release artificially propagated birds to train hunting dogs; and

5. CGS § 49-70, which allows a commercial kennel, after notifying an animal’s owner or keeper, to transfer an abandoned animal to a nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

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