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

SUMMARY: This act, 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 act exempts from its ban any lease or rental agreement for specified animals, including show animals, law enforcement dogs, assistance animals, and purebred dogs rented for breeding purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PET LEASING BAN

The act 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. an animal used in a spectator event, show, exhibition, motion picture, or audiovisual media, including an animal exhibition, race, field trial, polo, or rodeo;
2. a working animal trained or used to perform tasks (e.g., guide dogs, security or law enforcement dogs, and assistance animals); or
3. a purebred dog rented for breeding purposes, subject to specified conditions.

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.