AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE BOARDING OF CATS AND DOGS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO OPERATE A COMMERCIAL KENNEL

SUMMARY: This act 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). It also makes a technical change in the definition of commercial kennel, specifying that it is a place maintained for boarding or grooming dogs or cats.

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 act, 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage