House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 717

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6240

House of Representatives, April 16, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS SOLD AT PET STORES.

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

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 22-354 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) Any dog sold or offered for sale by a pet shop licensee in this state shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin identifying the name and address of the person, firm or corporation that bred such dog and of any person, firm or corporation that sold such dog to such pet shop licensee. Such certificate shall be in a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Such information contained in the certificate of origin shall be posted on the sign described in section 22-344d and such information shall be visible to customers. A copy of such certificate shall be provided to the purchaser of such dog at the time of sale and shall be filed by such licensee with the Department of Agriculture not later than seven days after such sale. No pet shop licensee shall purchase a dog or cat for resale

or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat purchased from: (1) Any breeder that (A) is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and any applicable state agency, (B) was found to have committed a direct violation of pet dealer-related regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture during the [two-year] three-year period prior to such purchase, or (C) was found to have committed three or more indirect violations of pet dealer-related regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture during the [two-year] three-year period prior to such purchase provided such violations pertained to the health or welfare of an animal and were not administrative in nature; or (2) any other person, firm or corporation that: (A) Is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and any applicable state agency, (B) was found to have committed a direct violation of pet dealer-related regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture during the [two-year] three-year period prior to such purchase, (C) was found to have committed three or more indirect violations of pet dealer-related regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture during the [two-year] three-year period prior to such purchase provided such violations pertained to the health or welfare of an animal and were not administrative in nature, or (D) directly or indirectly, has obtained such dog or cat from a breeder described in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Any pet shop licensee violating the provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars for each violation. Each day a pet shop licensee is in violation of this subsection shall constitute a separate offense. Not later than February first of each year, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in accordance with section 11-4a, that indicates (i) the place of origin of all animals sold by pet shop licensees for the previous calendar year, as determined by the certificates filed by such licensees pursuant to this subsection, and (ii) the number of violations of the provisions of this subsection that the Department of Agriculture issued for the previous calendar year and the nature of each such violation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	22-354(b)

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill extends, from two to three years, the look-back period for violations by breeders selling cats or dogs to licensed pet shops. This could result in additional violations, as a pet shop owner who violates the look-back provision is subject to a fine of up to $1,000. To the extent that additional violations occur, there is a corresponding revenue increase to the resources of the General Fund. The potential revenue increase is anticipated to be minimal.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6240

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS SOLD AT PET STORES.

SUMMARY

This bill extends, from two to three years, the look-back period for violations by breeders selling cats or dogs to licensed pet shops. By law, a pet shop licensee that buys dogs or cats must buy them from a licensed breeder who, during the look-back period, has not committed (1) a direct violation of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pet dealer regulations or (2) three or more indirect USDA violations relating to the health or welfare of an animal that were not administrative (see BACKGROUND). A pet shop licensee who violates this requirement is subject to a fine of up to $1,000 per violation, and each day of a continuing violation is a separate offense.

The bill also requires the state Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner to report to the Environment Committee annually by February 1. Each report must include the:

1. place of origin of all dogs a pet shop licensee sold in the prior year based on the certificates of origin that licensees must file with DoAg and

2. number and nature of violations DoAg issued in the prior year under the statute that requires pet shop licensees to (a) file certificates of origin for dogs the pet shop sourced and sold and (b) source dogs and cats from licensed breeders with a minimum number of USDA regulation violations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

USDA Violations

USDA-licensed breeders must comply with standards of care outlined in federal regulations under the Animal Welfare Act. These standards set minimum requirements for humane handling, shelter, space requirements, feeding, watering, sanitation, and veterinary care, among other things. To ensure breeders comply with the requirements, USDA inspectors perform compliance inspections. The USDA typically classifies regulatory violations into two categories: direct and indirect. Direct violations are violations that, at the time of inspection, are causing or have a high potential to cause a serious or severe adverse effect on animal welfare. Indirect violations do not directly harm an animal's health, but could potentially impact their health or welfare.

Related Bill

HB 6832 (File 306), favorably reported by the Planning and Development Committee, authorizes municipalities to prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops in their jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/28/2025)