



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 5386

LCO No. 4624



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF DOGS, CATS
AND RABBITS AT PET SHOPS THAT ARE NOT FROM ANIMAL
WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of chapter 435 of the general statutes, no owner or operator
3 of a pet shop, as defined in section 22-327 of the general statutes, shall
4 sell, offer for sale or trade any dog, cat or rabbit unless such dog, cat or
5 rabbit was obtained from a municipal or regional animal shelter or dog
6 pound or an animal adoption or animal rescue organization, as
7 defined in section 10a-150e of the general statutes.

8 (b) Each owner or operator of a pet shop shall maintain records
9 sufficient to document the source of each dog, cat or rabbit the pet
10 shop sells, offers for sale or trades for a period of not less than one year
11 following such sale, offer for sale or trade. Additionally, each such
12 owner or operator shall post, in a conspicuous location on the cage or
13 enclosure of each dog, cat or rabbit, a sign listing the name of such
14 municipal or regional animal shelter or dog pound or animal adoption
15 or animal rescue organization from which each dog, cat or rabbit was

16 obtained. Each owner or operator of a pet shop shall make such
17 records available to the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the
18 commissioner's designee, upon request.

19 (c) Any owner or operator of a pet shop who violates the provisions
20 of this section shall be fined five hundred dollars by the Commissioner
21 of Agriculture. Each dog, cat or rabbit sold or offered for sale or trade
22 in violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a separate
23 violation.

24 Sec. 2. Section 22-344d of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

26 (a) A sign measuring not less than three inches in height and not
27 less than five inches in width shall be posted on the cage of each dog
28 offered for sale in a pet shop. The sign shall contain information
29 printed in black lettering on a white background listing the breed of
30 such dog, the locality and state in which such dog was born, if known,
31 and any individual identification number of such dog as listed on the
32 official certificate of veterinary inspection from the state of origin.

33 (b) A sign shall be posted stating the following: "THE FOLLOWING
34 INFORMATION IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON ALL OUR PUPPIES:
35 [DATE OF BIRTH, THE STATE OF BIRTH,] BREED, SEX AND
36 COLOR, THE DATE THE PET SHOP RECEIVED THE PUPPY, [THE
37 NAMES AND REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF THE PARENTS (FOR
38 AKC REGISTERABLE PUPPIES),] RECORD OF INOCULATIONS
39 AND WORMING TREATMENTS AND ANY RECORD OF ANY
40 VETERINARY TREATMENT OR MEDICATIONS RECEIVED TO
41 DATE.". Such sign shall include a telephone number at the Department
42 of Agriculture through which information may be obtained regarding
43 complaints about diseased or disabled animals offered for sale. Such
44 sign shall be posted in a place readily visible to the consumer where
45 dogs are offered for sale and printed in black lettering not less than
46 thirty-eight point size upon a white background.

47 [(c) Each licensee shall post the United States Department of
48 Agriculture inspection from the prior two-year period reports for the
49 breeder of any dog offered for sale in a pet shop. Such inspection
50 reports shall be posted next to or near the cage of each dog that was
51 purchased from the breeder that is the subject of such inspection
52 reports and made available to any patron regardless of whether such
53 patron purchases said dog.]

54 [(d)] (c) Any licensee who violates any provision of this section shall
55 be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

56 Sec. 3. Section 22-354 of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

58 (a) Any dog or cat imported into this state shall be accompanied by
59 a certificate of health issued no earlier than thirty days prior to the date
60 of importation by a licensed, graduate veterinarian stating that such
61 dog or cat is free from symptoms of any infectious, contagious or
62 communicable disease, and that such dog or cat, if three months of age
63 or older, is currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A
64 copy of such health certificate shall be forwarded promptly to the
65 commissioner from the livestock sanitary official of the state of origin.
66 Any dog or cat originating from a rabies quarantine area shall have
67 permission of the State Veterinarian prior to importation into this state.
68 No person, firm or corporation shall import or export for the purposes
69 of sale, adoption or transfer or offering for sale, adoption or transfer
70 any dog or cat under the age of eight weeks unless such dog or cat is
71 transported with its dam and no person, firm or corporation shall sell
72 or offer for adoption or transfer within the state any dog or cat under
73 the age of eight weeks. Any person, firm or corporation violating the
74 provisions of this subsection or bringing any dog or cat into this state
75 from an area under quarantine for rabies shall be fined not more than
76 one thousand dollars.

77 (b) Any dog sold or offered for sale by a pet shop licensee in this
78 state shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin identifying the

79 name and address of the person, firm or corporation that bred such
80 dog, [and of any person, firm or corporation that sold such dog to such
81 pet shop licensee] if such information is known by such licensee. Such
82 certificate shall be in a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of
83 Agriculture. Such information contained in the certificate of origin
84 shall be posted on the sign described in section 22-344d, as amended
85 by this act, and such information shall be visible to customers. A copy
86 of such certificate shall be provided to the purchaser of such dog at the
87 time of sale and shall be filed by such licensee with the Department of
88 Agriculture not later than seven days after such sale. [No pet shop
89 licensee shall purchase a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale
90 any dog or cat purchased from: (1) Any breeder that (A) is not in
91 possession of a current license issued by the United States Department
92 of Agriculture and any applicable state agency, (B) was found to have
93 committed a direct violation of pet dealer-related regulations of the
94 United States Department of Agriculture during the two-year period
95 prior to such purchase, or (C) was found to have committed three or
96 more indirect violations of pet dealer-related regulations of the United
97 States Department of Agriculture during the two-year period prior to
98 such purchase provided such violations pertained to the health or
99 welfare of an animal and were not administrative in nature; or (2) any
100 other person, firm or corporation that: (A) Is not in possession of a
101 current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture
102 and any applicable state agency, (B) was found to have committed a
103 direct violation of pet dealer-related regulations of the United States
104 Department of Agriculture during the two-year period prior to such
105 purchase, (C) was found to have committed three or more indirect
106 violations of pet dealer-related regulations of the United States
107 Department of Agriculture during the two-year period prior to such
108 purchase provided such violations pertained to the health or welfare of
109 an animal and were not administrative in nature, or (D) directly or
110 indirectly, has obtained such dog or cat from a breeder described in
111 subdivision (1) of this subsection.] Any pet shop licensee violating the
112 provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than one

113 thousand dollars for each violation. Each day a pet shop licensee is in
114 violation of this subsection shall constitute a separate offense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2019	22-344d
Sec. 3	October 1, 2019	22-354

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the sale of animals originating from puppy mills at Connecticut pet shops.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. ALLIE-BRENNAN, 2nd Dist.; REP. DOUCETTE, 13th Dist.
REP. ARCONTI, 109th Dist.; REP. DIMASSA, 116th Dist.
REP. GUCKER, 138th Dist.; REP. CURREY, 11th Dist.
REP. GODFREY, 110th Dist.; REP. LINEHAN, 103rd Dist.
SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.; REP. HARDING, 107th Dist.
REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.; REP. CAMILLO, 151st Dist.
REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.; REP. NAPOLI, 73rd Dist.
REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.

H.B. 5386