

HB 1630-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

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2020 SESSION

20-2165
08/01

HOUSE BILL ***1630-FN***

AN ACT relative to pet vendors.

SPONSORS: Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Aron, Sull. 7

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill sets the limit of dogs, cats, and ferrets that may be transferred without a pet vendor license. This bill also creates an exemption from the requirement to obtain a pet vendor license for certain breeders of dogs and cats.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

AN ACT relative to pet vendors.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Pet Vendor; Definition. Amend RSA 437:1, IV to read as follows:

2 IV. "Pet vendor" means any person, firm, corporation, or other entity that transfers ~~[25]~~ **35**
3 or more dogs, ~~[25]~~ **50** or more cats, 30 or more ferrets, or 50 or more birds, live animals or birds
4 customarily used as household pets to the public, with or without a fee or donation required, and
5 whether or not a physical facility is owned by the licensee in New Hampshire, when transfer to the
6 final owner occurs within New Hampshire, between ~~[July 1 and June 30]~~ **January 1 and**
7 **December 31** of each year. Pet vendor also means any person, firm, corporation, or other entity that
8 transfers amphibians, reptiles, fish, or small mammals customarily used as household pets to the
9 public in quantities set in rules adopted by the department, with or without a fee or donation
10 required, and whether or not a physical facility is owned by the licensee in New Hampshire between
11 ~~[July 1 and June 30]~~ **January 1 and December 31** of each year. Nothing in this paragraph shall be
12 construed to alter or affect the municipal zoning regulations that a pet vendor shall conform with
13 under RSA 437:3.

14 2 Exemptions; Commercial Kennel Deleted. Amend RSA 437:7 to read as follows:
15 437:7 Exceptions.

16 **I.** The license provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to breeders of dogs that do not
17 meet the definition of pet vendor in RSA 437:1, veterinarians, or the transfer of livestock or poultry.

18 **II.(a)** *A person who has previously not met the requirements for licensure as a pet*
19 *vendor but who intends to transfer more than 35 dogs or 50 cats in a year may apply to the*
20 *commissioner for an exemption from licensure as a pet vendor if he or she meets the*
21 *following criteria:*

22 (1) *The person has transferred fewer than 35 dogs or 50 cats annually in the*
23 *previous 2 12-month periods beginning January 1 and running through the following*
24 *December 31; and*

25 (2) *The person has not been required to register as a pet vendor in the*
26 *previous 2 12-month periods beginning January 1 and running through the following*
27 *December 31.*

28 (b) *The commissioner shall make a determination on such exemption within 15*
29 *days of its submission. Such exemption shall expire on the December 31 following its*
30 *issuance.*

1 (c) *A person exempt from licensure as a pet vendor under this paragraph may*
2 *transfer no more than 15 dogs or 15 cats in addition to the 35 dog or 50 cat limit in*
3 *subparagraph (a) within the period his or her exemption is valid.*

4 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 1630-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to pet vendors.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	(\$12,000)	(\$12,000)
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

METHODOLOGY:

This bill sets the limit of dogs, cats, and ferrets that may be transferred without a pet vendor license. This bill also creates an exemption from the requirement to obtain a pet vendor license for certain breeders of dogs and cats. The Department of Agriculture provided the following information regarding the fiscal impact of this bill:

- The change in the definition of pet vendor, which increases the threshold number of animals transferred, would reduce the number of pet vendors subject to licensure from an estimated 360 to 300 licenses.
- The decrease in licenses would result in a decrease of \$12,000 in annual license revenue deposited in the general fund. (60 licenses X \$200 per license)
- Each application for an exemption would take 2 hours for review, consideration and response. The Department has no information on the potential number of applications.
- The Department assumes resources saved by processing fewer licenses would be redirected to other responsibilities of the Department.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food