



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6542***

LCO No. 3413



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL RESTRICTIONS ON PET SHOPS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-344b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) A pet shop licensee shall, prior to offering a dog or cat for sale and  
4 thereafter at intervals of fifteen days until such dog or cat is sold,  
5 provide for examination of such dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed  
6 under chapter 384. Such licensee shall maintain a record of the  
7 veterinary services rendered for each dog or cat offered for sale.

8 (b) (1) If, (A) within twenty days of sale, any such dog or cat becomes  
9 ill or dies of any illness which existed in such dog or cat at the time of  
10 the sale, or (B) within six months of sale, any such dog or cat is  
11 diagnosed with a congenital defect that adversely affects or will  
12 adversely affect the health of such dog or cat, such licensee shall: (i)  
13 Reimburse such consumer for the value of the actual services and  
14 medications provided to such dog or cat by any veterinarian licensed  
15 pursuant to chapter 384 for the treatment of such illness or congenital

16 defect upon the presentation by such consumer to such licensee of a  
17 certificate from such veterinarian that such dog or cat suffers or suffered  
18 from such illness or congenital defect, provided such reimbursement  
19 shall not exceed (I) the full purchase price of such dog or cat for any dog  
20 or cat purchased for five hundred dollars or more, and (II) five hundred  
21 dollars for any dog or cat purchased for less than five hundred dollars.  
22 No licensee may require the consumer to return such dog or cat to such  
23 licensee to receive such reimbursement, or (ii) at the option of such  
24 consumer, replace the dog or cat or refund in full the purchase price of  
25 such dog or cat: (I) In the case of illness or such congenital defect, upon  
26 return of the dog or cat to the pet shop and the receipt of a certificate  
27 from a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 and selected by the  
28 consumer, stating that the dog or cat is ill from a condition which existed  
29 at the time of sale, or suffers from such congenital defect, and (II) in the  
30 case of death, the receipt of a certificate from a veterinarian licensed  
31 under chapter 384 and selected by the consumer, stating that the dog or  
32 cat died from an illness or a congenital defect which existed at the time  
33 of sale. The presentation of such certificate shall be sufficient proof to  
34 claim reimbursement or replacement and the return of such deceased  
35 dog or cat to the pet shop shall not be required. Any such consumer may  
36 seek the assistance of the Commissioner of Agriculture in the event that  
37 the licensee fails to reimburse such consumer in accordance with the  
38 provisions of this subsection. No such refund or replacement shall be  
39 made if such illness or death resulted from maltreatment or neglect by  
40 a person other than the licensee or such licensee's agent or employee. A  
41 licensee shall not be subject to the obligations imposed by this  
42 subsection for the sale of a cat where such cat has been spayed or  
43 neutered prior to its sale.

44 (2) Each pet shop licensee who sells dogs or cats shall post a statement  
45 of customer rights pursuant to this section in a location that is readily  
46 visible to the public and also provide a copy of such statement to any  
47 purchaser of a dog or cat at the time of purchase. The commissioner shall  
48 prescribe the content of such statement. Any statement of customer  
49 rights posted pursuant to this section shall be printed in black lettering

50 of not less than twenty point size upon a white background. Any  
51 licensee who violates the provisions of this subdivision shall be fined  
52 two hundred fifty dollars.

53 (c) Any licensee who violates any provision of subsection (a) or  
54 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not more  
55 than five hundred dollars. Any fine assessed pursuant to this subsection  
56 for a failure to reimburse a consumer, as described in subsection (b) of  
57 this section, shall not preclude or be in lieu of any such reimbursement.

58 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a  
59 municipality from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that places  
60 additional obligations or restrictions on pet shops pursuant to  
61 subparagraph (D) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-148.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	22-344b

**Statement of Purpose:**

To clarify that a municipality may enact or enforce an ordinance to place certain obligations or restrictions on 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.]*