

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0116.01 Clare Haffner x6137

HOUSE BILL 26-1011

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran and McCormick,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez,

House Committees
Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT
101 **CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PET ANIMALS IN COLORADO.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Under current law, a pet store in Colorado is permitted to sell or offer for sale dogs or cats if the pet store abides by certain requirements. The bill removes the existing permission so that, beginning January 1, 2027, a pet store is no longer permitted to sell, lease, offer to sell or lease, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of a dog or cat. Nothing prohibits a pet store from providing space for the display of dogs or cats available for adoption if the pet store does not collect a fee from the display and if certain requirements are met.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

The bill defines "broker" as a person that, for profit, sells, leases, offers to sell or lease, barter, auctions, or otherwise transfers ownership of, in person or online, a pet animal bred by another person. The bill states that a broker is not permitted to sell, lease, offer to sell or lease, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of a dog or cat. The bill clarifies that the following are still permitted:

- The sale, transfer, or adoption of an animal, including a law enforcement animal, to a governmental agency;
- The sale, transfer, or adoption of a guide, signal, or service dog;
- The sale, transfer, or adoption of a dog or cat by an animal shelter or pet animal rescue;
- The sale or transfer of a dog or cat by the original breeder of the dog or cat;
- The sale or transfer of a dog or cat by, or on behalf of, the bona fide owner that is not the original breeder of the dog or cat to a new owner, so long as the bona fide owner does not sell or transfer a dog or cat more than three instances per each calendar year; and
- The sale, transfer, or adoption of a dog or cat by a health-related research facility.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Dogs in commercial breeding facilities, known as puppy mills,
5 spend most of their lives in cramped cages, where they are forced to
6 produce litter after litter and suffer from inadequate care, which
7 frequently results in disease, behavioral issues, and even death;

8 (b) While there are federal regulations intended to provide
9 oversight of commercial breeding facilities, these federal regulations do
10 not suffice in preventing cruelty to dogs in these facilities;

11 (c) Retail stores and brokers selling dogs to the public engage in
12 deceptive business practices, harming consumers across the state who are
13 falsely made to believe that they are purchasing healthy puppies; and

(d) Therefore, it is the policy of the state to end the sales and other transfers of dogs in retail stores and by brokers in order to:

(I) Shut down the puppy mill pipeline and end the cruelty to dogs in these facilities;

- (II) Protect consumers from deceptive business practices; and
- (III) Support responsible breeders, animal shelters, and pet animal

rescues.

in this act impacts agricultural operations in the state.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-80-102, **add** (1.7)
11 and (8.5) as follows:

35-80-102. Definitions.

As used in this article 80, unless the context otherwise requires:

14 (1.7) "BROKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT, FOR PROFIT, SELLS,
15 LEASES, OFFERS TO SELL OR LEASE, BARTERS, AUCTIONS, OR OTHERWISE
16 TRANSFERS OWNERSHIP OF, IN PERSON OR ONLINE, A PET ANIMAL BRED BY
17 ANOTHER PERSON.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 35-80-108.5
23 as follows:

35-80-108.5. Pet stores - brokers - exceptions - short title.

25 (1) The short title of this section is the "Pet Store Consumer
26 Protection Act" "PISTOL THE POMERANIAN PROTECTION ACT"

(2) A pet store that sells or offers for sale dogs or cats shall—

1 (2) (a) ~~Include on all advertisements, including website postings,~~
2 ~~the purchase price of the dog or cat and any applicable federal or state~~
3 ~~license numbers for the breeder of the dog or cat;~~ ON AND AFTER
4 JANUARY 1, 2027, A PET STORE SHALL NOT SELL, LEASE, OFFER TO SELL OR
5 LEASE, BARTER, AUCTION, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF A DOG
6 OR CAT.

13 (I) THE DOGS OR CATS ARE DISPLAYED BY A LICENSED ANIMAL
14 SHELTER OR PET ANIMAL RESCUE;

15 (II) THE PET STORE DOES NOT RECEIVE A FEE IN CONNECTION WITH
16 THE DISPLAY OF THE DOGS OR CATS; AND

17 (III) ANY DOG OR CAT DISPLAYED FOR ADOPTION IS STERILIZED IN
18 ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS.

19 (e) Disclose to a prospective consumer in writing, prior to the sale
20 of a dog or cat, the following information about the dog or cat:

21 (I) The purchase price of the dog or cat;

22 (II) The interest rate or range associated with any financing or
23 credit card offered to the prospective purchaser; and

24 (III) Any applicable federal or state license numbers and an
25 unredacted list of all violations of any federal or state law the dog or cat
26 breeder, broker, or transporter received in the previous two years on a
27 federal or state inspection report.

5 (4) (a) A BROKER SHALL NOT SELL, LEASE, OFFER TO SELL OR
6 LEASE, BARTER, AUCTION, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF A DOG
7 OR CAT.

8 (b) SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

13 (III) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF A DOG OR CAT BY AN
14 ANIMAL SHELTER OR PET ANIMAL RESCUE;

15 (IV) THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF A DOG OR CAT BY THE ORIGINAL
16 BREEDER OF THE DOG OR CAT;

17 (V) THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF A DOG OR CAT BY, OR ON BEHALF
18 OF, THE BONA FIDE OWNER THAT IS NOT THE ORIGINAL BREEDER OF THE
19 DOG OR CAT TO A NEW OWNER, SO LONG AS THE BONA FIDE OWNER DOES
20 NOT SELL OR TRANSFER A DOG OR CAT MORE THAN THREE INSTANCES PER
21 EACH CALENDAR YEAR; OR

22 (VI) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF A DOG OR CAT BY A
23 HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 35-82-102.

24 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
2 institutions.