

Amendment No.1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Judiciary Committee
2 Representative Leek offered the following:

3
4 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Remove line 12 and insert:

6 Section 1. Section 823.151, Florida Statutes, is created to
7 read:

8 823.151 Lost or stray dogs and cats.-

9 (1) The Legislature finds that natural disasters, such as
10 hurricanes, may result in an increase in owned dogs and cats
11 becoming lost or stray. The Legislature further finds that dog
12 and cat owners statewide should be afforded the opportunity to
13 quickly and reliably claim their lost pets. It is therefore
14 declared to be the public policy of the state that animal
15 control agencies and humane organizations shall adopt policies

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16 and procedures to help return lost cats or dogs to identified
17 owners.

18 (2) (a) A public or private animal shelter, humane
19 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane
20 organization or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated
21 political subdivision that takes receivership of any lost or
22 stray dogs or cats shall adopt written policies and procedures
23 to ensure that every reasonable effort is made to quickly and
24 reliably return owned animals to their owners. Such policies and
25 procedures shall include:

26 1. Upon intake, screening of lost or stray dogs and cats
27 for identification, including tags, licenses, implanted
28 microchips, and tattoos.

29 2. A process for matching received lost or stray dogs and
30 cats with any reports of lost pets received by the shelter from
31 owners.

32 3. Public notice of lost or stray dogs and cats received,
33 provided at the shelter or on the Internet, as appropriate,
34 within 48 hours of the animal's admission.

35 4. Reasonable efforts to notify identified owners of lost
36 or stray dogs and cats within 48 hours of identification. Such
37 reasonable efforts may include, but are not limited to, attempts
38 to contact identified owners by telephone, by electronic mail,
39 by United States mail, or by personal service at the owner's
40 last known phone number and address.

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41 5. Notice to the public of the shelter's location, hours,
42 fees, and the return-to-owner process posted on the Internet,
43 with the shelter's business hours posted outside the shelter
44 facility and recorded on the shelter's telephone answering
45 system message.

46 6. Access for owners to retrieve dogs and cats at least
47 one weekend day per week and after 5:00 p.m. one weekday per
48 week, provided that complying with the requirements of this
49 subparagraph shall not require an increase in total operating
50 hours.

51 7. Direct return-to-owner protocols that allow animal
52 control officers in the field to directly return lost or stray
53 dogs and cats to their owners when the owners have been
54 identified.

55 8. Procedural safeguards to minimize the euthanasia of
56 owned dogs and cats. Such safeguards shall include, but are not
57 limited to, record verification to ensure that each animal to be
58 euthanized is the correct animal designated for the procedure
59 and proper scanning for an implanted microchip using a universal
60 scanner immediately prior to the procedure.

61 9. Temporary extension of local minimum stray hold periods
62 after a disaster is declared by the President of the United
63 States or a state of emergency is declared by the Governor, if
64 deemed necessary by a local government in the area of the
65 declaration.

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66 (b) Records related to this section and maintained by a
67 public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal
68 control agency operated by a humane society or by a county,
69 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision must
70 be made available to the public pursuant to chapter 119.

71 Section 2. The amendment to s. 828.12, Florida Statutes,
72 by this act may be cited as "Ponce's law."

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

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Remove line 2 and insert:

77

An act relating to animal welfare; creating s.

78

823.151, F.S.; providing legislative findings;

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requiring that specified entities that take

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receivership of lost or stray dogs or cats shall adopt

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written policies and procedures to ensure that every

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reasonable effort is made to quickly and reliably

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return owned animals to their owners; providing

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requirements for such policies and procedures;

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requiring that specified records be available to the

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public; providing a