

By Senator Gruters

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the restraint of dogs; amending s.
3 828.12, F.S.; prohibiting a person from restraining a
4 dog outside and unattended during a manmade disaster
5 or a natural disaster; providing a criminal penalty;
6 providing a fine; defining terms; providing an
7 effective date.

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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11 Section 1. Present subsection (6) of section 828.12,
12 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new
13 subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

14 828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

15 (6) A person who leaves a dog outside and unattended by use
16 of a restraint during a manmade disaster or a natural disaster
17 commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree,
18 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more
19 than \$5,000, or both. As used in this subsection, the term:

20 (a) "Manmade disaster" means a situation in which a person
21 has received notice from a local or governmental authority that
22 an event attributed in part or entirely to human intent, error,
23 or negligence, or involving the failure of a manmade system,
24 which results in significant damage has occurred, is occurring,
25 or may soon occur in the person's vicinity.

26 (b) "Natural disaster" means a situation in which a
27 hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued
28 for a municipality or a county by the National Weather Service,
29 or the municipality or county is under a mandatory or voluntary

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30 evacuation order.

31 (c) "Restraint" means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable,
32 or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or
33 trolley system.

34 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.