

By Senator Gruters

23-00194A-20

2020522__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to cruelty to dogs; amending s.
3 828.12, F.S.; prohibiting a person from leaving a dog
4 outside and unattended during certain weather events;
5 providing a criminal penalty; providing a fine;
6 defining the term "restraint"; providing an effective
7 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) If the temperature is below 32°F or the National
16 Weather Service has issued a severe weather advisory or warning
17 and a person leaves a dog outside and unattended, regardless of
18 whether the dog has access to an outdoor shelter, the person
19 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
20 provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or
21 both. For purposes of this subsection:

22 (a) A dog is considered to have been left outside and
23 unattended if it is left in a securely fenced yard or a kennel
24 or is tethered by use of a restraint.

25 (b) The term "restraint" means a chain, a rope, a tether, a
26 leash, a cable, or another device that attaches a dog to a
27 stationary object or trolley system.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.