

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Gruters

591-02028-20

2020522c1

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 restraining a
4 dog outside and unattended during a natural disaster;
5 providing a criminal penalty; providing a fine;
6 defining terms; providing an effective date.

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

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

13 828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

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

19 (a) "Natural disaster" means a situation in which a
20 hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued
21 for a municipality or a county by the National Weather Service,
22 or the municipality or county is under a mandatory or voluntary
23 evacuation order.

24 (b) "Restraint" means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable,
25 or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or
26 trolley system.

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