

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to dog breeding; creating part III of
3 ch. 585, F.S., entitled "Dog Breeding"; creating s.
4 585.71, F.S.; providing legislative findings and
5 intent; creating s. 585.711, F.S.; providing
6 definitions; creating s. 585.712, F.S.; providing
7 construction; providing a presumption that a breeding
8 female dog is being used for breeding purposes unless
9 certain conditions are met; creating s. 585.713, F.S.;
10 requiring dog breeders to apply for a certificate of
11 registration from the Department of Agriculture and
12 Consumer Services; requiring that the certificate be
13 renewed annually; requiring the department to provide
14 certain written notice and a renewal form to a dog
15 breeder; authorizing the department to assess late
16 filing penalties and to extend the renewal date for a
17 specified number of days; requiring the department to
18 issue a certificate of inspection to a dog breeding
19 facility that meets certain requirements and rules;
20 requiring dog breeders and dog breeding facilities to
21 conspicuously post their certificates of registration
22 and certificates of inspection, respectively, in
23 certain places; creating s. 585.714, F.S.; requiring
24 the department to adopt specified rules; requiring the
25 department to consult with certain entities to create

26 | rules for standards of care; providing specified
27 | criteria for such rules; requiring the department to
28 | inspect a dog breeding facility; authorizing the
29 | department to enter such facility; requiring probable
30 | cause for such entry; authorizing the department to
31 | take certain enforcement actions against a dog
32 | breeding facility; authorizing the department to
33 | assess fines; authorizing the department to enter into
34 | cooperative agreements to conduct such inspections and
35 | board confiscated dogs; authorizing the department to
36 | create a risk-based inspection frequency system;
37 | authorizing the department to suspend or revoke
38 | certificates of registration and certificates of
39 | inspection under certain circumstances; requiring the
40 | department to establish an expedited review system for
41 | confiscated dogs; requiring the department to create a
42 | publicly available database on its website which
43 | contains certain information; requiring the department
44 | to establish a whistleblower program for reporting
45 | certain violations; creating s. 585.715, F.S.;
46 | requiring dog breeders and dog breeding facilities to
47 | microchip certain dogs; requiring such microchips to
48 | be registered with the department; requiring a retail
49 | establishment to conspicuously post certain
50 | certificates of registration and certificates of

51 inspection; prohibiting a retail establishment from
 52 selling or accepting for sale a dog that does not meet
 53 the microchipping requirements; providing civil
 54 penalties; creating s. 585.716, F.S.; prohibiting an
 55 individual from transferring a dog at specified
 56 locations; providing exceptions; creating s. 585.717,
 57 F.S.; providing for enforcement; authorizing civil and
 58 criminal penalties; authorizing law enforcement
 59 agencies and local animal control departments to enter
 60 into an agreement with the department to obtain
 61 reimbursement for enforcement costs; amending s.
 62 585.007, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made
 63 by the act; providing an effective date.

64
 65 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

66
 67 **Section 1. Part III of chapter 585, Florida Statutes,**
 68 **consisting of ss. 585.71-585.718, Florida Statutes, is created**
 69 **and entitled "Dog Breeding."**

70 **Section 2. Section 585.71, Florida Statutes, is created to**
 71 **read:**

72 585.71 Legislative findings and intent.—

73 (1) The Legislature finds that:

74 (a) Breeding dogs for profit without regard for the
 75 condition in which the dogs live or how they are cared for is an

76 act of animal cruelty.

77 (b) The registration of individuals or corporations that
78 breed dogs for profit is necessary to prevent the cruel
79 treatment of dogs, to prevent bred dogs that end up in shelters
80 from being euthanized at a financial cost to local governmental
81 entities and this state, and to prevent the emotional suffering
82 of individuals and families that experience the unethical and
83 bad business practices of some dog breeders.

84 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to require any
85 individual or corporation that breeds dogs for profit to
86 register with the department and for dog breeding facilities to
87 be inspected by the department to ensure that quality standards
88 are met and that only qualified individuals and facilities are
89 authorized to breed dogs to reduce the number of sick and
90 unwanted dogs in this state.

91 **Section 3. Section 585.711, Florida Statutes, is created**
92 **to read:**

93 585.711 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

94 (1) "Breeding female dog" means a dog that has not been
95 spayed and is more than 6 months old and capable of
96 reproduction.

97 (2) "Certificate of inspection" means an official document
98 issued by the department to a dog breeding facility stipulating
99 compliance with this part and department rules.

100 (3) "Certificate of registration" means an official

HB 1481

2025

101 document issued by the department to a dog breeder as evidence
102 of such dog breeder being properly registered with the
103 department in compliance with this part and department rules.

104 (4) "Consideration" means anything of value including cash,
105 credit, electronic transfer, services, or any type of or interest in
106 property.

107 (5) "Dog breeder" means a person that owns or possesses a
108 breeding female dog and offers dogs bred from the breeding
109 female dog for sale or exchange in return for consideration.

110 (6) "Dog breeding facility" means any location in which a
111 dog breeder has at least one breeding female dog.

112 (7) "Dog broker" means a person that sells dogs for profit
113 and does not have a physical location for inspection purposes.
114 For purposes of this part, a dog broker is synonymous with a dog
115 breeder and a dog broker must comply with all regulations
116 applicable to a dog breeder.

117 (8) "Federal regulations" means the federal Animal Welfare
118 Act, 9 C.F.R. part 3, subpart A.

119 (9) "Transfer" means a transaction in which, for
120 consideration, a dog is exchanged, offered for exchange, or
121 advertised for exchange for a commercial purpose.

122 **Section 4. Section 585.712, Florida Statutes, is created**
123 **to read:**

124 585.712 Construction; presumption of use for dog
125 breeding.—

126 (1) The authority of the department to regulate and
127 inspect dog breeders and dog breeding facilities does not
128 preempt local governmental entities from placing more
129 restrictive conditions on dog breeders or dog breeding
130 facilities.

131 (2) For the purposes of this part, each breeding female
132 dog possessed by a dog breeder is presumed to be used for
133 breeding purposes unless the dog breeder establishes to the
134 satisfaction of the department, based on the dog breeder's
135 breeding records or other evidence reasonably acceptable to the
136 department, that the dog is not used for breeding.

137 **Section 5. Section 585.713, Florida Statutes, is created**
138 **to read:**

139 585.713 Certificate of registration and inspection.—

140 (1) Each dog breeder within this state must apply to the
141 department, on a form supplied by the department, for a
142 certificate of registration.

143 (2) The certificate of registration must be renewed
144 annually on its anniversary date upon satisfactorily showing
145 that the applicant has complied with this part and department
146 rules.

147 (3) The department shall provide to each dog breeder
148 subject to this section a written notice and renewal form no
149 less than 60 days before the annual renewal date, which informs
150 the dog breeder of the certificate of registration renewal date.

151 (4) The department may assess penalties for late filing,
152 not to exceed \$500. Upon application before the renewal date,
153 the department may, for good cause, such as a natural disaster,
154 hardship, or unusual circumstance, supported by written
155 documentation, extend the renewal date without penalty for up to
156 90 days.

157 (5) The department shall issue a certificate of inspection
158 to any dog breeding facility that meets the requirements of this
159 part and department rules.

160 (6) Each dog breeder and dog breeding facility must
161 conspicuously post its certificate of registration and
162 certificate of inspection, respectively, in a place that is in
163 clear and unobstructed public view.

164 **Section 6. Section 585.714, Florida Statutes, is created**
165 **to read:**

166 585.714 Powers and duties of the department.—The
167 department:

168 (1) Shall adopt rules to administer and enforce this part,
169 including:

170 (a) The application for and issuance, suspension, and
171 revocation of certificates of registration and certificates of
172 inspection.

173 (b) In consultation with local governmental entities and
174 dog rescue organizations, the standards of care for dog
175 breeding. The standards of care must, at minimum:

176 1. Meet the minimum federal regulations for dog breeding
177 facilities.

178 2. Include limitations relating to the number of breeding
179 female dogs per dog breeder and the number of times a breeding
180 female dog may be bred annually.

181 3. Include requirements for the space, exercise,
182 confinement, veterinary care, temperature, food, and euthanasia
183 of each breeding female dog.

184 4. Require that each breeding female dog have a
185 certificate of veterinary inspection.

186 (2) Shall inspect, or cause to be inspected, all dog
187 breeding facilities. In inspecting a dog breeding facility, the
188 department may:

189 (a) Enter the dog breeding facility to determine
190 compliance with this part and department rules and to seize,
191 without compensation, any dogs from such facilities or breeders
192 in violation of this part or department rules. To enter a dog
193 breeding facility under this section, there must be probable
194 cause.

195 (b) Declare a dog breeding facility noncompliant and
196 provide the registered facility owner or operator with an
197 opportunity to cure the noncompliance within 10 days.

198 (c) Assess fines.

199 (3) May enter into a cooperative agreement with any
200 individual, municipality, county, or organization to perform

201 inspections or boarding of confiscated dogs.

202 (4) May create a system of risk-based inspections to
203 ensure compliance with the standards of care.

204 (5) May suspend or revoke certificates of registration and
205 certificates of inspection of dog breeders and dog breeding
206 facilities, respectively.

207 (6) Shall establish an expedited review system for dogs
208 that have been confiscated to ensure that they are not held
209 indefinitely.

210 (7) Shall create a publicly available database on its
211 website which contains all of the following information:

212 (a) All dog breeder certificates of registration and dog
213 breeding facility certificates of inspection issued pursuant to
214 this part.

215 (b) Any administrative action taken against any
216 individual, dog breeder, dog breeding facility, or retail
217 establishment pursuant to s. 585.715(3)(c).

218 (8) Shall establish a whistleblower program in which any
219 individual may alert the department about a violation of this
220 part and shall provide a reward system for such alerts which may
221 be funded with fines or through an agreement with a private
222 organization.

223 **Section 7. Section 585.715, Florida Statutes, is created**
224 **to read:**

225 585.715 Microchipping and certificates; retail sale of

226 dogs.—

227 (1) A dog breeder or dog breeding facility must fit each
228 breeding female dog or any dog that it intends to offer for sale
229 with a unique microchip and register the unique microchip with
230 the department.

231 (2) A retail establishment that sells dogs in this state
232 must do all of the following:

233 (a) Conspicuously post in a place that is in clear and
234 unobstructed public view any certificates of registration and
235 certificates of inspection of dog breeders and dog breeding
236 facilities, respectively, from which the retail establishment
237 obtains dogs for sale.

238 (b) Ensure that any dog offered for sale in the retail
239 establishment is fitted with a unique microchip by the dog
240 breeder or dog breeding facility pursuant to subsection (1). The
241 retail establishment may not sell or accept for sale any dog
242 which does not have a microchip that is registered with the
243 department.

244 (c) Provide a certificate of veterinary inspection for
245 each dog offered for sale.

246 (3) (a) Any individual who violates paragraph (2) (a) may be
247 subject to a fine as established by the department.

248 (b) A retail establishment that violates subsection (2) is
249 subject to a Class I fine pursuant to s. 570.971. Each dog
250 offered for sale in violation of subsection (2) constitutes a

251 separate violation.

252 (c) Any individual, retail establishment, dog breeder, or
253 dog breeding facility that violates this section shall be placed
254 on a registry created by the department which details the
255 violation.

256 **Section 8. Section 585.716, Florida Statutes, is created**
257 **to read:**

258 585.716 Unlawful transfer of dogs.—An individual may not
259 transfer a dog at any roadside, public right-of way, parkway,
260 median, park or other recreational area, fair, flea market,
261 outdoor market, commercial or retail parking lot, or similar
262 transient or outdoor location, regardless of whether the
263 transfer is otherwise authorized by any other individual.

264 However, this section does not apply to a transfer by:

265 (1) Any person that can provide, upon request, whether in
266 paper, electronic, or other form, a valid license issued by the
267 department to sell dogs.

268 (2) Any paid entrant, as part of a fair or an exhibition,
269 who possesses a dog breeder registration or is a retail
270 establishment with the appropriate registration to sell dogs.

271 **Section 9. Section 585.717, Florida Statutes, is created**
272 **to read:**

273 585.717 Enforcement; fines.—

274 (1) If the department determines that a dog breeder or dog
275 breeding facility is operating in violation of this part, the

276 department may revoke or suspend the dog breeder certificate of
277 registration or the dog breeding facility certificate of
278 inspection.

279 (2) The department may confiscate all or a portion of the
280 dogs in the dog breeding facility pending the outcome of any
281 hearings or appeals. The dog breeder is responsible for payment
282 of all boarding costs and other fees as may be required to
283 humanely and safely house the dogs pending any hearing or
284 appeal.

285 (3) Any administrative order made and entered by the
286 department imposing a fine pursuant to this part must specify
287 the amount of the fine and the time limit for payment, which may
288 not exceed 15 days. Upon failure to pay the fine within the time
289 limit, the dog breeder certificate of registration or the dog
290 breeding facility certificate of inspection may be suspended or
291 revoked without further hearing. An additional fine of \$100 per
292 day may be imposed until the dog breeder or the dog breeding
293 facility complies with the order.

294 (4) If a dog breeding facility certificate of registration
295 is revoked, the facility and its registered owners and officers
296 are prohibited from breeding dogs in this state and may be
297 subject to the following criminal penalties:

298 (a) For a first offense, a misdemeanor of the first
299 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083; and

300 (b) For a second or subsequent offense, a felony of the

301 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
 302 or s. 775.084.

303 (5) Any law enforcement agency, including any local animal
 304 control department, may enter into an agreement with the
 305 department to obtain reimbursement for its costs to enforce this
 306 part.

307 **Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 585.007, Florida**
 308 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

309 585.007 Violation of rules; violation of chapter.—

310 (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, a person who
 311 violates this chapter or any rule of the department is ~~shall be~~
 312 subject to the imposition of an administrative fine in the Class
 313 III category pursuant to s. 570.971 for each offense. Upon
 314 repeated violation, the department may seek enforcement pursuant
 315 to s. 120.69.

316 **Section 11.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.