



190218

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/11/2025	.	
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The Committee on Criminal Justice (Gaetz) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. This act may be cited as "Trooper's Law."

Section 2. Section 828.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
read:

828.13 Confinement of animals without sufficient food,  
water, or exercise; abandonment of animals.—

(1) As used in this section:



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(a) "Abandon" means to forsake an animal entirely or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal by its owner.

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

(c) "Owner" includes any owner, custodian, or other person in charge of an animal.

(d) "Restraint" means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device that attaches an animal to a stationary object or trolley system.

(2) A person who ~~Whoever:~~

(a) Impounds or confines any animal in any place and fails to supply the animal during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water,

(b) Keeps any animals in any enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, or

(c) Abandons to die any animal that is maimed, sick, infirm, or diseased,

~~commits is guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or ~~by both imprisonment and a fine.~~

(3) ~~A~~ Any person who is the owner or possessor, or has charge or custody, of any animal who abandons such animal to suffer injury or malnutrition or abandons any animal in a street, road, or public place without providing for the care,



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sustenance, protection, and shelter of such animal commits is  
~~guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or  
~~by both imprisonment and a fine.~~

(4) A person who abandons an animal by using a restraint on  
the animal and leaving that animal restrained outside during a  
natural disaster commits a felony of the third degree,  
punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more  
than \$10,000, or both.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause  
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to abandoning restrained animals  
during natural disasters; providing a short title;  
amending s. 828.13, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting  
abandoning an animal that is restrained outside during  
a natural disaster; providing criminal penalties;  
providing an effective date.