

By Senator Gaetz

1-00702-25

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to animal cruelty during a declared
3 state of emergency; amending s. 828.12, F.S.;
4 providing increased criminal penalties for animal
5 cruelty offenses committed during a declared state of
6 emergency; 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. Subsection (1) of section 828.12, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

13 (1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who
14 unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of
15 necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or
16 kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in
17 or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or
18 inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the
19 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine
20 of not more than \$5,000, or both.

21 (b) A person who commits a violation of paragraph (a)
22 during a state of emergency declared pursuant to s. 252.36 in an
23 area included in the state of emergency commits a felony of the
24 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
25 or s. 775.084.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.