

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Budget Committee
2 Representative Weinberger offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 828.12, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

(7) ~~Beginning~~ Before January 1, ~~2027~~ 2026, the Department of Law Enforcement shall post on its website, in a searchable format prescribed by the department, the names and all aliases, date of birth, race, counties of conviction, charges, case numbers, dispositions, description of any identifying marks and tattoos, and a photograph taken at the time of booking related to the animal cruelty offense of each individual ~~these individuals~~ who has ~~have~~ been convicted of, or who has ~~have~~

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17 entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
18 adjudication, a violation of this section.

19 (8) Each clerk of court and county detention facility must
20 provide the Department of Law Enforcement with the information,
21 data, and images required in subsection (7).

22 **Section 2. Section 828.291, Florida Statutes, is created**
23 **to read:**

24 828.291 Best management practices for dog breeding.-

25 (1) The purpose of this section is to allow voluntary
26 participation in best management practices for minimum standards
27 of care, facility operations, and breeding practices for
28 individuals or entities engaged in the breeding of dogs in order
29 to protect animal welfare, promote responsible breeding, and
30 ensure the health and safety of animals and consumers.

31 (2) This section may not be construed to prohibit a local
32 jurisdiction from implementing requirements for individuals or
33 entities engaged in the breeding of dogs.

34 (3) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
35 shall develop best management practices that individuals or
36 entities engaged in the breeding of dogs may voluntarily adopt
37 and implement. Such best management practices must include
38 minimum standards of care, facility operations, and breeding
39 practices for individuals or entities engaged in the breeding of
40 dogs, including, but not limited to, the following:

41 (a) Breeding.

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42 (b) Feeding.

43 (c) Housing.

44 (d) Health.

45 (e) Enrichment.

46 (f) Selling and transferring, in accordance with s.

47 828.29.

48 (g) Recordkeeping, in accordance with s. 828.29.

49 (4) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
50 shall post on its website guidance for the public about how to
51 identify the dog breeders that are following best breeder
52 practices and provide a checklist to use when purchasing a dog.

53 (5) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
54 shall post on its website information regarding animal cruelty,
55 including a description of conduct constituting animal cruelty
56 under ss. 828.12 and 828.13, the penalties for such conduct, and
57 instructions for reporting suspected animal cruelty or abuse to
58 the appropriate local authorities, including the contact
59 information for at least one appropriate authority for each
60 county in the state.

61 **Section 3. Section 828.2911, Florida Statutes, is created**
62 **to read:**

63 828.2911 Dog Awareness and Welfare Guidelines (DAWG)
64 Breeder Program.—

65 (1) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
66 shall establish the Dog Awareness and Welfare Guidelines (DAWG)

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67 Breeder Program to recognize dog breeders who have voluntarily
68 adopted and implemented the best management practices for dog
69 breeding. The department shall certify any individual or entity
70 that the department has determined has voluntarily adopted and
71 implemented the best management practices for dog breeding
72 pursuant to s. 828.291 and who has complied with this section.
73 Such certification is good for 2 years and dog breeders may
74 reapply at the expiration of such certification.

75 (2) Participants in the DAWG Breeder Program must agree to
76 submit to inspection by the Department of Business and
77 Professional Regulation or its designee and pay the actual cost
78 of the inspection. Subject to appropriations, the department or
79 its designee may conduct an inspection of the applicant's dog
80 breeding program, including, but not limited to, all animals
81 located on an applicant's premises, the breeding and housing
82 facilities for such animals, and any health records or records
83 of sale for such animals maintained by the applicant.

84 (a) The department may contract with and designate local
85 law enforcement or animal services, if local staff and resources
86 are available, or any other public or private entity that the
87 department determines regularly conducts animal welfare
88 investigations to perform inspections or related investigative
89 activities. Private service providers may include Florida-
90 licensed veterinarians currently in good standing who have been
91 licensed for at least 10 years.

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92 (b) Local governments or enforcement authorities may
93 contract with the department to conduct dog breeder inspections,
94 subject to the availability of local funding, staff, and
95 resources. If the local government or enforcement authority
96 lacks the staff or resources to perform dog breeder inspections,
97 such inspections may be conducted by a private provider
98 designated and approved by the department, provided that the
99 breeder bears the cost of the inspection.

100 (c) If sufficient resources are not available, the
101 applicant must wait until such resources are available or
102 contract with a private provider designated and approved by the
103 department in order to obtain certification.

104 (3) If the applicant passes inspection, the department
105 must provide the applicant a DAWG Breeder Program certificate.

106 (4) The department may suspend or revoke the certification
107 of any DAWG-certified dog breeder at any time if the department
108 discovers that the breeder has failed to maintain the best
109 management practices created pursuant to s. 828.291.

110 (5) A dog breeder that is certified by the program may
111 identify the certification in the breeder's professional
112 practice, including in marketing and advertising materials.

113 (6) Recognition by the program is not required for a dog
114 breeder to engage in dog breeding in this state.

115 (7) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
116 section.

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117 (8) Any fees collected pursuant to this section shall be
118 deposited in the Professional Regulation Trust Fund within the
119 Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

120 **Section 4. Subsections (5) through (8), (10), (12), (13)**
121 **and (17) of section 828.29, Florida Statutes, are amended, and**
122 **subsection (18) is added to that section, to read:**

123 828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale;
124 health requirements; consumer guarantee; disclosures. -

125 (5) If, within 30 ~~14~~ days after ~~following~~ the sale by a
126 pet dealer of an animal subject to this section, a licensed
127 veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies that, at the
128 time of the sale, the animal was unfit for purchase due to
129 illness or disease, the presence of symptoms of a contagious or
130 infectious disease, or the presence of internal or external
131 parasites, excluding fleas and ticks; or if, within 1 year after
132 ~~following~~ the sale of an animal subject to this section, a
133 licensed veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies such
134 animal to be unfit for purchase due to a congenital or
135 hereditary disorder which adversely affects the health of the
136 animal; or if, within 1 year after ~~following~~ the sale of an
137 animal subject to this section, the breed, sex, or health of
138 such animal is found to have been misrepresented to the
139 consumer, the pet dealer shall afford the consumer the right to
140 choose one of the following options:

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141 (a) The right to return the animal and receive a refund of
142 the purchase price, including any interest accrued and the sales
143 tax or fees paid or due from the purchaser, and reimbursement
144 for reasonable veterinary costs directly related to the
145 veterinarian's examination and certification that the animal ~~dog~~
146 ~~or cat~~ is unfit for purchase pursuant to this section or and
147 directly related to necessary emergency services and treatment
148 undertaken to relieve suffering of the animal. If the consumer
149 financed the animal pursuant to a financing agreement with the
150 pet dealer, the pet dealer must ensure that the financing
151 arrangement is terminated without penalty to the consumer;

152 (b) The right to return the animal and receive an exchange
153 ~~dog or cat~~ of the consumer's choice of equivalent value, and
154 reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs directly related
155 to the veterinarian's examination and certification that the
156 animal ~~dog or cat~~ is unfit for purchase pursuant to this section
157 or and directly related to necessary emergency services and
158 treatment undertaken to relieve suffering of the animal; or

159 (c) The right to retain the animal and receive
160 reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs for necessary
161 services and treatment related to the attempt to cure or curing
162 of the animal, or necessary emergency services or treatment
163 undertaken to relieve the suffering of the animal related to
164 such services received within 1 year after purchase ~~dog or cat~~.

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166 Reimbursement for veterinary costs may not exceed the purchase
167 price of the animal. The cost of veterinary services is
168 reasonable if such costs are comparable to the cost of similar
169 services rendered by other licensed veterinarians in proximity
170 to the treating veterinarian and the services rendered are
171 related to the examination and ~~appropriate for the~~ certification
172 of fitness by the veterinarian.

173 (6) All financial terms must be disclosed by the pet
174 dealer to the consumer before the sale of an animal, including
175 the total cost of the animal, any fees, taxes, and, if
176 applicable, financing charges or interest over the period
177 financed

178 ~~(6) A consumer may sign a waiver relinquishing his or her~~
179 ~~right to return the dog or cat for congenital or hereditary~~
180 ~~disorders. In the case of such waiver, the consumer has 48~~
181 ~~normal business hours, excluding weekends and holidays, in which~~
182 ~~to have the animal examined by a licensed veterinarian of the~~
183 ~~consumer's choosing. If the veterinarian certifies that, at the~~
184 ~~time of sale, the dog or cat was unfit for purchase due to a~~
185 ~~congenital or hereditary disorder, the pet dealer must afford~~
186 ~~the consumer the right to choose one of the following options:~~

187 ~~(a) The right to return the animal and receive a refund of~~
188 ~~the purchase price, including sales tax, but excluding the~~
189 ~~veterinary costs related to the certification that the dog or~~
190 ~~cat is unfit; or~~

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191 ~~(b) The right to return the animal and receive an exchange~~
192 ~~dog or cat of the consumer's choice of equivalent value, but not~~
193 ~~a refund of the veterinary costs related to the certification~~
194 ~~that the dog or cat is unfit.~~

195 (7) Before the sale of an animal, a pet dealer must
196 provide to the consumer copies of records of all medical
197 examinations or tests that were conducted on the animal and any
198 medication given before the purchase of the animal. A pet dealer
199 may specifically state at the time of sale, in writing to the
200 consumer, the presence of specific congenital or hereditary
201 disorders, in which case the consumer has no right to any refund
202 or exchange for those identified disorders, if the consumer
203 signs a notification that indicates that the animal has been
204 examined by a veterinarian and it has been determined that the
205 animal has the identified specific congenital or hereditary
206 disorder.

207 (8) The refund or exchange required by subsection (5) must
208 ~~or subsection (6) shall~~ be made by the pet dealer not later than
209 10 business days after ~~following~~ receipt of a signed veterinary
210 certification as required in subsection (5) ~~or subsection (6)~~.
211 The consumer must provide notice and documentation to notify the
212 pet dealer within 7 ~~2~~ business days after receipt of the
213 veterinarian's determination that the animal is unfit. ~~The~~
214 ~~written certification of unfitness must be presented to the pet~~

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215 ~~dealer not later than 3 business days following receipt thereof~~
216 ~~by the consumer.~~

217 (10) If a pet dealer wishes to contest a demand for
218 veterinary expenses, refund, or exchange made by a consumer
219 under this section, the dealer may require the consumer to
220 produce the animal for examination by a licensed veterinarian
221 designated by the dealer. Upon such examination, if the consumer
222 and the dealer are unable to reach an agreement that constitutes
223 one of the options set forth in subsection (5) ~~or subsection (6)~~
224 within 10 business days after ~~following~~ receipt of the animal
225 for such examination, the consumer may initiate an action in a
226 court of competent jurisdiction or the small claims court of the
227 county court in which the consumer resides to recover or obtain
228 reimbursement of veterinary expenses and a refund, or an
229 exchange, as set forth in subsection (5), and may collect
230 punitive damages in an amount not less than \$2,500, at the
231 discretion of the court.

232 (12) Every pet dealer who sells an animal to a consumer
233 must provide the consumer at the time of sale with a printed,
234 written notice in 14-point bold font to be signed by the
235 consumer, ~~printed or typed,~~ which is separate from the contract.
236 The pet dealer shall retain a copy of the signed notice, and the
237 consumer must be given a copy of the signed notice. Such notice
238 must read ~~reads~~ as follows:
239

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RIGHT TO CANCEL

Florida consumers have certain rights under s. 828.29, Florida Statutes. You have the right to return the animal, exchange the animal, and receive reimbursement for certain veterinary expenses under certain circumstances. Please have your new pet seen by a veterinarian immediately. A copy of this law is attached to this notice.

It is the consumer's right, pursuant to section 828.29, Florida Statutes, to receive a certificate of veterinary inspection with each animal ~~dog or cat~~ purchased from a pet dealer. Such certificate shall list all vaccines and deworming medications administered to the animal and list any medical diagnosis and treatments ~~shall state that the animal has been examined by a Florida licensed veterinarian who certifies that, to the best of the veterinarian's knowledge, the animal was found to have been healthy at the time of the veterinary examination.~~ In the event that the consumer purchases the animal and finds it to have been unfit for purchase as provided in section 828.29(5), Florida Statutes, the consumer must notify the pet dealer within 7 ~~2-business~~ days of the veterinarian's determination that the animal was

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265 unfit. The consumer has the right to retain, return,
266 or exchange the animal and receive reimbursement for
267 certain related veterinary services rendered to the
268 animal, subject to the right of the dealer to have the
269 animal examined by another veterinarian.

270
271 ...(Signature of Animal Owner or Lessee, Purchaser, or
272 Authorized Person)...

273
274 (13) For the purposes of this section ~~subsections (5) (12)~~
275 ~~and (16)~~, the term "pet dealer" means any person, firm,
276 partnership, corporation, or other association which, in the
277 ordinary course of business, engages in the sale of more than
278 three ~~two~~ litters, or 30 ~~20~~ dogs or cats, per year, whichever is
279 greater, to the public. The term ~~This definition~~ includes
280 breeders of animals who sell such animals directly to a
281 consumer. The term does not include not-for-profit entities that
282 offer animals for sale or adoption as long as the total cost of
283 such sale or adoption does not exceed \$500, including all taxes
284 and fees, or other costs.

285 (17) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a
286 person who violates ~~any provision of~~ this section commits a
287 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
288 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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289 (18) Any record provided to a consumer related to the sale
290 of an animal under this section must be maintained by the pet
291 dealer for a period of at least 3 years after the date of sale.

292 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.
293

294 -----
295 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

296 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

297 An act relating to domestic animals; amending s.
298 828.12, F.S.; requiring the Department of Law
299 Enforcement to post on its website specified
300 information relating to each individual convicted of
301 specified animal cruelty offenses; creating s.
302 828.291, F.S.; providing purpose; providing
303 construction; requiring the Department of Business and
304 Professional Regulation to develop voluntary best
305 management practices for dog breeders in this state;
306 requiring the department to post certain information
307 on its website; creating s. 828.2911, F.S.; requiring
308 the department to establish the voluntary Dog
309 Awareness and Welfare Guidelines (DAWG) Breeding
310 Program; providing requirements for participation in
311 the program; providing for the issuance, suspension,
312 revocation, and use of program certificates; requiring
313 the department to adopt rules; requiring the

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/HB 1521 (2026)

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314 department to deposit fees in a specified trust fund;
315 amending s. 828.29, F.S.; extending the period of time
316 after the sale of an animal that a consumer may return
317 or exchange the animal and receive a refund or receive
318 reimbursement for certain costs; requiring that a pet
319 sale financing agreement be terminated without penalty
320 under certain circumstances; removing a limit on
321 veterinary costs under certain circumstances;
322 requiring all financial terms be disclosed to the
323 consumer before the sale of an animal; removing
324 certain provisions relating to a consumer's waiver
325 relinquishing his or her rights to return an animal;
326 requiring a pet dealer to provide copies of specified
327 medical records to a consumer; revising requirements
328 for a required notice to a consumer; revising the text
329 of the required notice; revising the definition of the
330 term "pet dealer"; requiring a pet dealer to retain a
331 copy of certain records for a specified period;
332 providing construction; providing an effective date.