

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1521 (2026)

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| WITHDRAWN             | 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> |       |

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

3  
4 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

6 **Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 828.12, Florida**  
7 **Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is added to that**  
8 **section, to read:**

9 828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

10 (7) By Beginning January 1, 2027 ~~2026~~, the Department of  
11 Law Enforcement shall post on its website, in a searchable  
12 format prescribed by the department, the names and any aliases,  
13 the date of birth, the race, the counties of conviction, the  
14 charges, the case numbers, the dispositions, the description of  
15 any identifying marks and tattoos, and a photograph taken at the  
16 time of booking related to the animal cruelty offense of each

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17 individual ~~those individuals~~ who has ~~have~~ been convicted of, or  
18 who has ~~have~~ entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to,  
19 regardless of adjudication, a violation of this section.

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

23 **Section 2. Subsections (5) through (8), (10), (12), (13),**  
24 **and (17) of section 828.29, Florida Statutes, are amended, and**  
25 **subsections (18) and (19) are added to that section, to read:**

26 828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale;  
27 health requirements; consumer guarantee; disclosures.-

28 (5) If, within 30 ~~14~~ days after ~~following~~ the sale by a  
29 pet dealer of an animal subject to this section, a licensed  
30 veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies that, at the  
31 time of the sale, the animal was unfit for purchase due to  
32 illness or disease, the presence of symptoms of a contagious or  
33 infectious disease, or the presence of internal or external  
34 parasites, excluding fleas and ticks; or if, within 1 year after  
35 ~~following~~ the sale of an animal subject to this section, a  
36 licensed veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies such  
37 animal to be unfit for purchase due to a congenital or  
38 hereditary disorder which adversely affects the health of the  
39 animal; or if, within 1 year after ~~following~~ the sale of an  
40 animal subject to this section, the breed, sex, or health of  
41 such animal is found to have been misrepresented to the

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42 consumer, the pet dealer shall afford the consumer the right to  
43 choose one of the following options:

44 (a) The right to return the animal and receive a refund of  
45 the purchase price, including any interest accrued and the sales  
46 tax or fees paid or due from the purchaser, and reimbursement  
47 for reasonable veterinary costs directly related to the  
48 veterinarian's examination and certification that the animal ~~dog~~  
49 ~~or cat~~ is unfit for purchase pursuant to this section or and  
50 directly related to necessary emergency services and treatment  
51 undertaken to relieve the suffering of such animal. If the  
52 consumer financed the animal pursuant to a financing agreement  
53 with the pet dealer, the pet dealer must ensure that the  
54 financing agreement is terminated without penalty to the  
55 consumer;

56 (b) The right to return the animal and receive an exchange  
57 animal ~~dog or cat~~ of the consumer's choice of equivalent value,  
58 and reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs directly  
59 related to the veterinarian's examination and certification that  
60 the animal ~~dog or cat~~ is unfit for purchase pursuant to this  
61 section or and directly related to necessary emergency services  
62 and treatment undertaken to relieve the suffering of such  
63 animal; or

64 (c) The right to retain the animal and receive  
65 reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs for necessary  
66 services and treatment related to the attempt to cure or curing

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67 of the animal, or necessary emergency services or treatment  
68 undertaken to relieve the suffering of such animal received  
69 within 1 year after purchase ~~dog or cat.~~

70  
71 ~~Reimbursement for veterinary costs may not exceed the purchase~~  
72 ~~price of the animal.~~ The cost of veterinary services is  
73 reasonable if comparable to the cost of similar services  
74 rendered by other licensed veterinarians in proximity to the  
75 treating veterinarian and the services rendered are appropriate  
76 for the certification by the veterinarian.

77 (6) All financing terms must be disclosed by the pet  
78 dealer to the consumer before the sale of the animal ~~A consumer~~  
79 ~~may sign a waiver relinquishing his or her right to return the~~  
80 ~~dog or cat for congenital or hereditary disorders. In the case~~  
81 ~~of such waiver, the consumer has 48 normal business hours,~~  
82 ~~excluding weekends and holidays, in which to have the animal~~  
83 ~~examined by a licensed veterinarian of the consumer's choosing.~~  
84 ~~If the veterinarian certifies that, at the time of sale, the dog~~  
85 ~~or cat was unfit for purchase due to a congenital or hereditary~~  
86 ~~disorder, the pet dealer must afford the consumer the right to~~  
87 ~~choose one of the following options:~~

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

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

96 (7) Before the sale of an animal, a pet dealer must  
97 provide to the consumer copies of records of all medical  
98 examinations or tests that were conducted on the animal or any  
99 medication given before the purchase of the animal. A pet dealer  
100 may specifically state at the time of sale, in writing to the  
101 consumer, the presence of specific congenital or hereditary  
102 disorders, in which case the consumer has no right to any refund  
103 or exchange for those identified disorders, if such consumer  
104 signs a notification that indicates that the animal has been  
105 examined by a veterinarian who determined that the animal has  
106 the identified congenital or hereditary disorder.

107 (8) The refund or exchange required by subsection (5) must  
108 ~~or subsection (6) shall~~ be made by the pet dealer not later than  
109 10 business days after following receipt of a signed veterinary  
110 certification as required in subsection (5) ~~or subsection (6)~~.  
111 The consumer must notify the pet dealer within 7 ~~2~~ business days  
112 after receipt of the veterinarian's determination that the  
113 animal is unfit. The written certification of unfitness must be  
114 presented to the pet dealer not later than 3 business days  
115 following receipt thereof by the consumer.

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116 (10) If a pet dealer wishes to contest a demand for  
117 veterinary expenses, refund, or exchange made by a consumer  
118 under this section, the dealer may require the consumer to  
119 produce the animal for examination by a licensed veterinarian  
120 designated by the dealer. Upon such examination, if the consumer  
121 and the dealer are unable to reach an agreement that constitutes  
122 one of the options set forth in subsection (5) ~~or subsection (6)~~  
123 within 10 business days after following receipt of the animal  
124 for such examination, the consumer may initiate an action in a  
125 court of competent jurisdiction, or the county court small  
126 claims court division, in the county where the animal owner  
127 resides, to recover or obtain reimbursement of veterinary  
128 expenses and a refund, or exchange, as set forth in subsection  
129 (5), and may collect punitive damages in an amount not less than  
130 \$2,500 at the discretion of the court.

131 (12) Every pet dealer who sells an animal to a consumer  
132 must provide the consumer at the time of sale with a printed,  
133 written notice in 14-point boldface type to be signed by the  
134 consumer, ~~printed or typed,~~ which is separate from the contract  
135 and reads as follows:

136  
137 RIGHT TO CANCEL

138 Florida consumers have certain rights under section  
139 828.29, Florida Statutes. You have the right to: 1)  
140 return the animal; 2) exchange the animal; and 3)

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141 receive reimbursement for certain veterinary expenses  
142 under certain circumstances. Please have your new pet  
143 seen by a veterinarian immediately. A copy of this law  
144 is attached to this notice.

145  
146 It is the consumer's right, pursuant to section  
147 828.29, Florida Statutes, to receive a certificate of  
148 veterinary inspection with each animal ~~dog or cat~~  
149 purchased from a pet dealer. Such certificate shall  
150 list all vaccines and deworming medications  
151 administered to the animal and list any medical  
152 diagnosis and treatments ~~and shall state that the~~  
153 ~~animal has been examined by a Florida-licensed~~  
154 ~~veterinarian who certifies that, to the best of the~~  
155 ~~veterinarian's knowledge, the animal was found to have~~  
156 ~~been healthy at the time of the veterinary~~  
157 ~~examination.~~ In the event that the consumer purchases  
158 the animal and finds it to have been unfit for  
159 purchase as provided in section 828.29(5), Florida  
160 Statutes, the consumer must notify the pet dealer  
161 within 7 ~~2-business~~ days after ~~of~~ the veterinarian's  
162 determination that the animal was unfit. The consumer  
163 has the right to retain, return, or exchange the  
164 animal and receive reimbursement for certain related  
165 veterinary services rendered to the animal, subject to

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166 the right of the dealer to have the animal examined by  
167 another veterinarian.

168  
169 ...(Signature of Animal owner or Lessee, or Owner's or  
170 Lessee's Authorized Person)...

171  
172 (13) For the purposes of this section ~~subsections (5) -- (12)~~  
173 ~~and (16)~~, the term "pet dealer" means any person, firm,  
174 partnership, corporation, or other association which, in the  
175 ordinary course of business, engages in the sale of more than  
176 three ~~two~~ litters, or 30 ~~20~~ dogs or cats, per year, whichever is  
177 greater, to the public. This definition includes breeders of  
178 animals who sell such animals directly to a consumer. This  
179 definition does not include not-for-profit entities that do not  
180 purchase dogs or cats from a breeder or broker.

181 (17) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a  
182 person who violates ~~any provision of~~ this section commits a  
183 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
184 775.082 or s. 775.083.

185 (18) Any record provided to a consumer pursuant to the  
186 sale of an animal under this section must be maintained by the  
187 pet dealer for a period of at least 7 years after the sale.

188 (19) A pet dealer who violates this section commits an  
189 unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or

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190 practice in violation of part II of chapter 501 and is subject  
191 to the penalties and remedies provided for such violations.

192 **Section 3. Section 828.291, Florida Statutes, is created**  
193 **to read:**

194 828.291 Best management practices for dog breeding.-

195 (1) The purpose of this section is to allow voluntary  
196 participation in best management practices relating to minimum  
197 standards of care, facility operations, and breeding practices  
198 for individuals or entities engaged in the breeding of dogs in  
199 order to protect animal welfare, promote responsible breeding,  
200 and ensure the health and safety of animals and consumers.

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

204 (3) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
205 shall develop a list of best management practices that  
206 individuals or entities engaged in the breeding of dogs may  
207 voluntarily adopt and implement. Such best management practices  
208 must include minimum standards of care, facility operations, and  
209 breeding practices for individuals or entities engaged in the  
210 breeding of dogs, including, but not limited to, standards  
211 relating to all of the following:

212 (a) Breeding.

213 (b) Feeding.

214 (c) Housing.

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- 215        (d) Health.
- 216        (e) Enrichment.
- 217        (f) Selling and transferring, in accordance with s.
- 218 828.29.
- 219        (g) Recordkeeping, in accordance with s. 828.29.
- 220        (4) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- 221 shall post on its website guidance for the public about how to
- 222 identify the breeders that are following best management
- 223 practices and provide a checklist to use when purchasing an
- 224 animal.
- 225        (5) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- 226 shall post on its website information regarding animal cruelty,
- 227 including a description of conduct constituting animal cruelty
- 228 under ss. 828.12 and 828.13, the penalties for such conduct, and
- 229 instructions for reporting suspected animal cruelty or abuse to
- 230 the appropriate local authorities, including the contact
- 231 information for at least one appropriate authority for each
- 232 county in the state.

233        **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

234

235 -----

236                    **T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

237        Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

238        An act relating to domestic animals; amending s.

239        828.12, F.S.; requiring the Department of Law

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240 Enforcement to post on its website specified  
241 information relating to each individual convicted of  
242 specified animal cruelty offenses; requiring the clerk  
243 of each court and county detention facility to provide  
244 the Department of Law Enforcement with such  
245 information; amending s. 828.29, F.S.; extending the  
246 timeframe for which a consumer may pursue remedies for  
247 the sale of an animal certifiably unfit for purchase;  
248 revising such remedies; requiring that all financing  
249 terms be disclosed to the consumer by the pet dealer  
250 before the sale of the animal; deleting certain  
251 provisions relating to a consumer's waiver  
252 relinquishing his or her rights to return an animal;  
253 requiring a pet dealer to provide copies of specified  
254 medical records to a consumer; denying a consumer the  
255 right to a refund or an exchange for a pet sale under  
256 certain circumstances; extending the timeframe within  
257 which a consumer must notify the pet dealer of a  
258 veterinarian's determination that the animal is unfit;  
259 authorizing the consumer to initiate an action in  
260 certain courts for any contestation of veterinary  
261 expenses or demands of the pet dealer for a refund or  
262 exchange; providing for the award of punitive damages;  
263 revising requirements for a required notice to a  
264 consumer; revising the text of the required notice;

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265 | revising the definition of the term "pet dealer";  
266 | requiring a pet dealer to retain a copy of a specified  
267 | notice for a specified period; providing that  
268 | violations constitute an unfair method of competition  
269 | or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation  
270 | of specified provisions and subject to penalties;  
271 | creating s. 828.291, F.S.; providing a legislative  
272 | purpose; providing construction; requiring the  
273 | Department of Business and Professional Regulation to  
274 | develop a list of best management practices for  
275 | adoption and implementation; specifying requirements  
276 | for such best management practices; requiring the  
277 | department to post guidance on its website related to  
278 | the selection of breeders and the purchase of an  
279 | animal; requiring the department to post information  
280 | on its website relating to animal cruelty; providing  
281 | requirements for such information; providing an  
282 | effective date.