

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6231

AN ACT RESTRICTING THE EUTHANIZATION OF FERAL CATS AND
REQUIRING THE INVOLVEMENT OF FERAL CAT ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE

Title: TRAPPING OF SUCH ANIMALS.

Vote Date: 3/28/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/24/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Liz Linehan, 103rd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

By restricting the use of euthanasia on feral cat populations, this bill increases the number of feral cats who can be tamed and taken care of within feral cat organizations. The bill also requires the involvement of feral cat organizations in the trapping and catching of feral cats, decreasing the chances of any mishandling and unnecessary harm to either the cat or animal control officers.

Substitute Language LCO 6919:

The substitute language revised Section 1 by requiring the animal control officers (ACOs) to consult, instead of engage with, a feral cat organization for a stated purpose. It also added Sections 2 and 3.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

Bryan Hurlburt submitted public hearing testimony expressing concerns about this bill and its effect on towns. He explains that current law covers cats who damage property or pose a danger to sanitation levels, however, this bill applies exclusively to feral cats. The bill specifying that euthanasia can only be applied for health concerns limits a town's ability to

deal with feral cats. The Department is worried that many feral cat organizations lack the resources to handle managing large volumes of ferals.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

23 citizens expressed support.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

51 citizens expressed opposition.

Reported by: Phoebe Mann

Date: April 3, 2025