



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6231

January Session, 2025



* H B 0 6 2 3 1 E N V 0 3 3 1 2 5 *

***AN ACT RESTRICTING THE EUTHANIZATION OF FERAL CATS,
PROHIBITING CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS AN ANIMAL CONTROL
OFFICER AND STUDYING THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUTSIDE
ORGANIZATIONS AT ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-339d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) A municipality may adopt an ordinance requiring the registration,
4 within one year of the adoption of such ordinance, of keepers of feral
5 cats in residential or commercial areas. Such ordinance shall require that
6 any such keeper shall register with the animal control officer for such
7 municipality who shall provide information to the registrant regarding
8 the proper care and management of feral cats. For purposes of this
9 section, "feral cat" means a free-roaming domestic cat which is not
10 owned and "keeper" means any person or organization, harboring,
11 regularly feeding or having in his or its possession any feral cat. Refusal
12 to permit any animal control officer to impound a feral cat shall be
13 deemed evidence of keeping. Such ordinance shall require that such
14 keepers shall provide for the vaccination of such cats against rabies and
15 the sterilization of such cats. Such keeper shall be considered an eligible
16 owner for purposes of the animal population control program
17 established under sections 22-380e to 22-380m, inclusive, provided such

18 cats are adopted from a municipal pound.

19 (b) A municipality may adopt an ordinance providing that no person
20 owning or keeping any cat shall permit such animal to (1) substantially
21 damage property other than the property of the owner or keeper, or (2)
22 cause an unsanitary [] or dangerous [or unreasonably offensive]
23 condition. Violation of such provision shall be an infraction.

24 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter: (1) Each
25 animal control officer shall consult an animal rescue or feral cat
26 organization when undertaking efforts to control the feral cat
27 population in any such municipality for the purpose of the possible
28 placement of any such feral cat in the care of such organization, and (2)
29 no municipality, animal control officer or regional animal control officer
30 shall euthanize a feral cat for any purpose other than that such animal
31 presents a public health danger, such as a communicable disease,
32 including, but not limited to, rabies, or such cat is injured to an extent
33 that euthanasia is determined to be the only humane course of action by
34 a veterinarian licensed in this state.

35 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) No person shall serve, or
36 continue to serve, as an animal control officer or regional animal control
37 officer, pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-331a of the general statutes, as
38 applicable, if such person is convicted of animal abuse or neglect
39 pursuant to section 53-247 of the general statutes, enters a plea of nolo
40 contendere on such a charge or enters into a plea bargain concerning
41 such a charge.

42 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2025, the
43 Commissioner of Agriculture shall convene a working group within the
44 Department of Agriculture to develop recommendations for legislation
45 to: (1) Create guidelines and determine best practices for the provision
46 of mutual aid to animal control and dog pound facilities by animal
47 rescue organizations and members of the public, (2) address ways to
48 shorten the length of time seized animals are kept in custody at such
49 facilities, (3) improve current training standards for animal control

50 officers through enhanced continuing education requirements, and (4)
 51 establish protocols for the use of volunteers in animal control facilities.
 52 Such working group shall consist of: (A) The Commissioner of
 53 Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, (B) the Chief State's
 54 Attorney, or such attorney's designee, (C) three representatives of an
 55 organization that represents animal control officers who shall be
 56 appointed by the commissioner and, respectively, represent urban,
 57 suburban and rural municipalities, (D) a representative of a municipal
 58 police department, appointed by the commissioner, and (E) a
 59 representative from an animal rights organization, appointed by the
 60 commissioner. Such working group shall hold not less than two public
 61 forums in undertaking the responsibilities described in this section. The
 62 commissioner, on or before February 1, 2026, shall submit the
 63 recommendations of such working group to the joint standing
 64 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 65 relating to the environment, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
 66 general statutes.

67 Sec. 4. Section 22-332d of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 68 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-339d
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.