



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6267

LCO No. 5707



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING CAT DECLAWING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Cat" means any animal of the taxonomic family Felidae;

4 (2) "Declawing" means conducting an onychectomy or any other
5 surgical procedure to amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in
6 order to remove such cat's claws;

7 (3) "Tendonectomy" means a procedure in which the tendons to a
8 cat's limbs, paws or toes are cut or modified so that the normal
9 functioning of the cat's claws is impaired; and

10 (4) "Therapeutic purpose" means a medically necessary procedure to
11 address an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury or abnormal
12 condition in the claws, nail bed or toe bone of a cat that otherwise
13 jeopardizes the cat's health. "Therapeutic purpose" does not include a
14 procedure performed for a cosmetic or aesthetic purpose or to make the
15 cat more convenient to keep or handle.

16 (b) No person shall perform surgical claw removal, declawing or a
17 tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise alter any cat's toes, claws or paws
18 to prevent or impair the normal function of such cat's toes, claws or
19 paws. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any procedure
20 performed solely for a therapeutic purpose.

21 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
22 subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars for the first violation,
23 one thousand dollars for a second violation and two thousand five
24 hundred dollars for a third or any subsequent violation. The provisions
25 of this section may be enforced by the Department of Public Health, the
26 Department of Agriculture and any municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit cat declawing.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.; REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA, 105th Dist.
REP. DELNICKI, 14th Dist.

H.B. 6267