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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 539  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Brown and Weinstein

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### SUMMARY

- Increases the number of establishments that are considered high-volume dog breeders and subject to regulation under the law governing those breeders.
- Requires a high-volume dog breeder to ensure that all euthanasia and surgical procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian with regard to a dog that is kept, housed, and maintained by the breeder.
- Specifically adds tail docking, dew claw removal, and ear cropping to the types of surgical procedures that must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- Requires, rather than authorizes as under current law, the Director of Agriculture or the Director's authorized representative to conduct inspections of high-volume dog breeders during regular business hours without providing notice in advance.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### High-volume dog breeders

Current law establishes requirements and procedures for the regulation of high-volume dog breeders by the Department of Agriculture. Those requirements include licensure, standards of care, and enforcement provisions. The bill makes several revisions to these requirements.

#### Expansion of the scope of the law

Current law defines a "high-volume dog breeder" as an establishment that keeps, houses, and maintains six or more breeding dogs and does at least one of the following:

1. In return for a fee or other consideration, sells five or more adult dogs or puppies in any calendar year to dog brokers or pet stores;

2. In return for a fee or other consideration, sells 40 or more puppies in any calendar year to the public; or
3. Keeps, houses, and maintains, at any given time in a calendar year, more than 40 puppies that are under four months old, that have been bred on the premises of the establishment, and that have been primarily kept, housed, and maintained from birth on the premises of the establishment.

The bill instead defines a “high-volume dog breeder” as an establishment that keeps, houses, and maintains six or more breeding dogs and, in return for a fee or other consideration, sells adult dogs or puppies to dog brokers, pet stores, or the public. As a result, the bill eliminates the number of puppies and adult dogs that an establishment must sell in order to be considered a high-volume dog breeder. Thus, the bill increases the number of establishments that are considered high-volume dog breeders and subject to regulation under the law governing those breeders.<sup>1</sup>

### Standards of care

Regarding a dog that is kept, housed, and maintained by a high-volume dog breeder, current law requires the breeder to use a licensed veterinarian to perform a surgical or euthanasia procedure, if a procedure is required. The bill instead states that if a surgical or euthanasia procedure is *performed*, a high-volume dog breeder must use a licensed veterinarian. Consequentially, the bill requires all euthanasia and surgical procedures to be performed by a licensed veterinarian, including specifically tail docking, dew claw removal, and ear cropping.<sup>2</sup>

### Inspections

The bill requires, rather than authorizes as under current law, the Director of Agriculture or the Director’s authorized representative to conduct inspections of high-volume dog breeders during regular business hours without providing notice in advance.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-15-24

ANHB0539IN-135

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 956.01.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 956.031(V).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 956.10(B)(4) and (C).