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H.B. 621
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Grim and McNally

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SUMMARY

- Eliminates provisions of law that preempt local regulation of pet stores.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Local regulation of pet stores

The bill eliminates provisions of current law that preempt local regulation of pet stores. That law specifically states all of the following:

1. The regulation of pet stores is a matter of general statewide interest that requires statewide regulation;
2. State law constitutes a comprehensive plan with respect to all aspects of the regulation of pet stores; and
3. It is the intent of the General Assembly to preempt any local law adopted to regulate the sale, delivery, barter, auction, broker, or transfer of a dog to a person from a pet store.[1]

Background: definitions[2]

Current law defines the following terms:

Defined term	Definition
Pet store	An individual retail store to which both of the following apply:

[1] R.C. 956.23, repealed; conforming change in R.C. 956.181.

[2] R.C. 956.01, not in the bill.

Defined term	Definition
	1. The store sells 40 or more puppies or adult dogs in any calendar year to the public; and 2. With regard to the sale of a dog from the store, the sales person, the buyer of a dog, and the dog for sale are physically present during the sales transaction so that the buyer may personally observe the dog and help ensure its health prior to taking custody. A pet store does not include an animal rescue for dogs, an animal shelter for dogs, a humane society, a medical kennel for dogs, a research kennel for dogs, or a high volume breeder or any other dog breeder that maintains and sells dogs from the same premises where the dogs are bred and reared.
Animal rescue for dogs	An individual or organization recognized by the Director of Agriculture that keeps, houses, and maintains (keeps) dogs and that is dedicated to the welfare, health, safety, and protection of dogs, provided that the individual or organization does not operate for profit, does not sell dogs for a profit, does not breed dogs, does not sell dogs to a dog broker or pet store, and does not purchase more than nine dogs in any given calendar year unless the dogs are purchased from a dog warden appointed under current law, a humane society, or another animal rescue for dogs. "Animal rescue for dogs" includes an individual or organization that offers spayed or neutered dogs for adoption and charges reasonable adoption fees to cover the costs of the individual or organization, including costs related to spaying or neutering dogs.
Animal shelter for dogs	A facility that keeps, houses, and maintains dogs, including a dog pound operated by a municipal corporation, or by a county under the Dog Law, or that is operated by a humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or other nonprofit organization that is devoted to the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of dogs and other animals.
High volume dog breeder	An establishment that keeps 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, at any given time in a calendar year, more than 40 puppies that are under four months, that have been bred on the premises of the establishment, and that have been primarily kept from birth on the premises of the establishment.

Defined term	Definition
Medical kennel for dogs	A facility that is maintained by a veterinarian and operated primarily for the treatment of sick or injured dogs.
Research kennel for dogs	A facility housing dogs that is maintained exclusively for research purposes.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	12-03-25

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