

HB 2915 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/20, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits a retail pet store from selling a dog or cat, if the store did not sell them before the effective date, or the store changes ownership or sells them at a different location after the effective date. Defines retail pet store; excludes animal rescue entities and persons who breed or raise dogs or cats from definition. Allows a retail pet store to display animals offered for adoption by animal rescue entities under certain conditions. Authorizes district attorneys to bring actions to recover civil penalties of up to \$500 per violation. Permits local governments to enact more stringent requirements. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 41, Nays 16

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Six Oregon stores sell mass produced dogs and cats
- Puppy mills are banned in Oregon; no ban on selling animals from out of state
- A breeder cannot have more than 50 breeding animals in Oregon
- Illnesses related to inbreeding and repeat breeding
- Promoting adoption from shelters
- Leasing of pets
- Sick or injured pets that are surrendered to shelters
- Consider phase-out for legacy stores

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Six states have prohibited the sale of dogs and cats in retail pet stores, including California (2019), Illinois (2022), Maine (2020), Maryland (2020), New York (2023), and Washington (2021). Washington and Maine applied the prohibition to new stores only. Over 400 localities in approximately 34 states have also imposed restrictions, including Beaverton, Bend and Scappoose in Oregon.

House Bill 2915 A would prohibit the sale of cats and dogs for profit in retail pet stores that did not sell them before the effective date, or that are under new ownership or selling the dogs or cats from a new location, and authorizes district attorneys to enforce the measure through actions for civil penalties.