

**HB 2915 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Rep. Gomberg

**House Committee On Business and Labor****Action Date:** 03/08/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 8-2-1-0**Yeas:** 8 - Grayber, Holvey, Hudson, Nelson, Nosse, Osborne, Owens, Sosa**Nays:** 2 - Boshart Davis, Elmer**Exc:** 1 - Scharf**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/13, 3/8**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits retail pet store from offering to sell or selling dogs or cats, unless pet store sold dogs or cats prior to effective date of measure and pet store has not changed ownership. Exempts "animal rescue entity" from definition of "retail pet store." Provides that violation is subject to civil penalty not to exceed \$500. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Number of states and municipalities that have adopted similar prohibitions
- Pet stores selling puppies from puppy mills
- States that have laws regulating puppy mills
- Pet adoption programs
- Behavioral and health conditions associated with puppy from puppy mills
- Closing loophole in Oregon's puppy mill law
- Ability to purchase dog or cat directly from a breeder
- Oregon animal rescues rescuing dogs from other states or other countries with puppy mill laws

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Exempts "animal rescue entity" from definition of "retail pet store." Defines "retail pet store" as retail establishment that sells *or* offers to sell pet animals or food, supplies or accessories for pet animals. Clarifies ability of animal rescue entity to partner with pet store to host their animals for adoption. Clarifies ability to sell dogs and cats cannot be transferred to a new owner at any date after effective date.

**BACKGROUND:**

The states of California, Washington, New York, Illinois, Maryland, and Maine, as well as 440 U. S. localities, have passed humane pet store laws that prohibit retail sales of dogs and cats at pet shops. The prohibition prevents retail pet stores from selling commercially raised puppies and kittens from breeding mills.

In 2009, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2470 to curtail puppy mills in Oregon. The measure specified standards of care for dealers, breeders, and pet store owners, and limiting the number of sexually intact dogs per commercial breeding operation. Prohibiting retail sales of dogs and cats at pet shops builds on the law passed in 2009.

House Bill 2915 A prohibits retail pet store from offering to sell or selling dogs or cats. The measure permits retail pet stores that sold dogs or cats prior to the measure being effective, to continue to sell the animals provided that ownership of the pet store is not transferred to a new owner at any date after the effective date.