

HB 2915 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits a retail pet store from selling a dog or cat, if the store did not sell dogs or cats before the effective date, or the store changed ownership or sells a cat or dog at a different physical address 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. Permits local governments to enact more stringent requirements. Authorizes district attorneys to bring actions to recover civil penalties of up to \$500 per violation. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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 prohibits the sale of cats and dogs for profit in retail pet establishments 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.