

Submitter: Eugenia Wessels
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1076

"I own pet dogs that I show in AKC performance sports and conformation. Most of my friends do too. Some breed an occasional litter to provide a new canine athlete for themselves and others who show dogs, or are looking for a well-bred pet. Upon first reading I thought the Act established by this bill was heavy-handed. It's not. It's positively draconian. Mistreatment of animals can be adequately investigated and punished under our current laws. There is no need for the insidious bureaucratic maze that will be created by this Act.

While the bill's title refers to shelters and rescues, that is misleading. The proposed Act also mandates licensing and regulations for "breeders," defined as anyone producing birds, cats, dogs, or small mammals as pets. Imagine this: your son's elementary school classroom guinea pigs just had babies. It appears that all the regulations, investigations, inspections, and penalties will apply. Is it the kids, their teacher, or the school who will pay the fine for not having a license to breed? Under this Act, your grandmother would be subject to investigation (and fines), and her home will be subject to inspection, if her cat has kittens. Does that seem a tad unreasonable? What kind of distinction will be made between 1) a dog fancier who shows dogs kept as beloved housepets and breeds a well-planned litter every 1 to 3 years, and 2) a commercial puppy mill that keeps animals in a filthy barn and breeds all females every season?

This Act sets an overreaching framework for a system of rules and regulations yet to be written. I do not trust that the persons or entities who wrote this piece of legislation will flesh out the regulatory aspects in a reasonable manner. Please do not pass Senate Bill 1076. It will create an expensive, unworkable nightmare for shelters and pet fanciers alike."