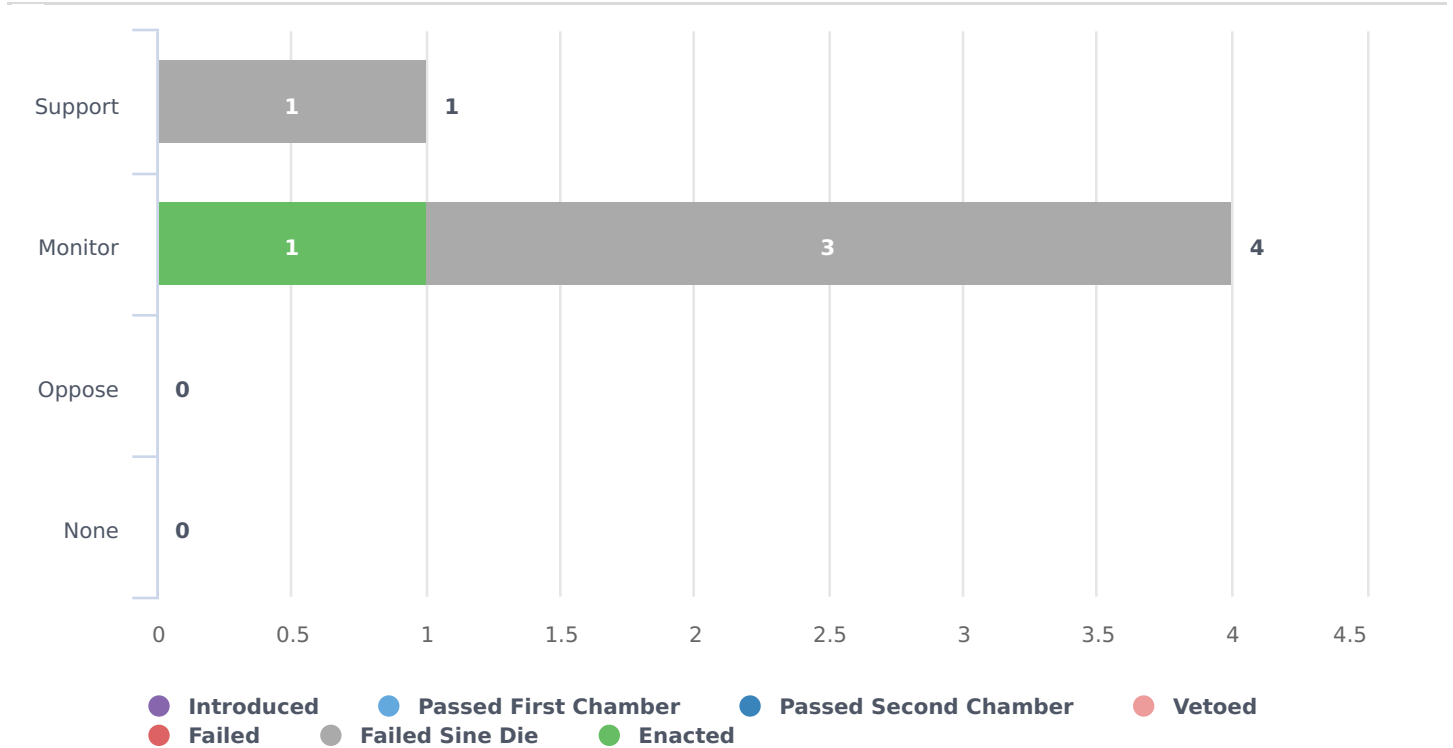


Georgia - 2023-24 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: April 25, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: GA (5)

Title

Animal protection; marketing and transferring of certain domestic animals at certain locations; prohibit

Description

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to animal protection generally, so as to prohibit the marketing and transferring of certain domestic animals at certain locations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Primary Sponsors

Joseph Gullett, Scott Hilton, Beth Camp

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 24, 2023, 3:41 PM

Amends Title 4 (Animals), Chapter 11 (Animal Protection), Article 1 (General Provisions), Section 4-11-10 (Unlawful acts by licensed persons) of the Official Code of Georgia by adding a new Subsection 4-11-10.1 to prohibit the marketing and transferring of certain domestic animals at certain locations. Provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to transfer any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit on any roadside, public right-of-way, parkway, median, park, other recreation area, fair, flea market or other outdoor market, or commercial or retail parking lot, regardless of whether such activity is otherwise authorized by any person. Provides that this Code section shall not apply to: (1) The transfer of any dog, cat, or domestic rabbit at an established retail location that provides space for such purpose, with written permission from the property owner or lawful possessor of the retail location for such activity, by an entity that has and is displaying a valid animal shelter license issued by the Commissioner; (2) The transfer of a dog, cat, or domestic rabbit by a paid entrant as part of a nationally sanctioned event or fair show, 4-H program, or similar agricultural exhibition; or (3) A prearranged transfer between a transferor and a specific transferee that takes place at a police department, sheriff's office, or other similar peace officer facility during daylight hours, unless otherwise prohibited. For purposes of this section: "Transfer" means: (1) A transfer or an offer for consideration, in which 'for consideration' means any payment of consideration, including, but not limited to, any fee, property, rights, or services, or any payment occurring in connection with any other commercial transaction; (2) A lease or offer to lease; or (3) To display for a commercial purpose.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-27

Title

Waste Management; the distribution of certain bags made of plastic film and items made of polystyrene foam by certain retail establishments; prohibit

Description

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 8 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to waste management, so as to prohibit the distribution of certain bags made of plastic film and items made of polystyrene foam by certain retail establishments; to provide for exceptions; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Primary Sponsors

Donzella James, Nan Orrock, David Lucas, Jason Esteves, Nikki Merritt, Sally Harrell, Nabilah Islam, Kim Jackson, Gail Davenport

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 31, 2023, 3:32 PM

Amends Title 12 (Conservation & Natural Resources), Chapter 8 (Waste Management) of the Code of Georgia by adding a new Article 10 so as to prohibit the distribution of certain bags made of plastic film by certain retail establishments. Provides that on and after January 1, 2026, except for exempt items, no persons who are engaged as dealers in the sale at retail and who are subject to the collection of sales and use taxes under Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 shall distribute any bag made of plastic film or item made of extruded polystyrene foam. Included in list of "exempt items" is "a bag provided for the disposal of animal waste".

Introduction Date: 2023-01-31

Title

Dog Ownership; the definition of dangerous dog; revise

Description

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the O.C.G.A., relating to responsible dog ownership, so as to revise the definition of dangerous dog; to provide for the owner of a dangerous or vicious dog to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Primary Sponsors

Lee Anderson, Matt Brass, Max Burns, Jason Anavitarte, Randy Robertson, Brandon Beach, Carden Summers, Valencia Seay, Derek Mallow, Ed Setzler, Larry Walker, Brian Strickland, Bill Cowsert, Chuck Hufstetler, Doc Rhett, Gail Davenport, Billy Hickman, Shawn Still, John Albers, Ricky Williams, Ed Harbison, Emanuel Jones, Freddie Powell Sims, Harold Jones, Chuck Payne, Russ Goodman, Sam Watson, Greg Dolezal, Mike Dugan, Shelly Echols, Clint Dixon, Kay Kirkpatrick, Mike Hodges, Ben Watson, Marty Harbin, Bo Hatchett

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 10, 2023, 3:58 PM

Amends Title 4 (Animals), Chapter 8 (Dogs), Article 2 (Responsible Dog Ownership) of the Official Code of Georgia to: 1) Revise the definition of dangerous dog; 2) Provide for the owner of a dangerous or vicious dog to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage; and 3) Provide for criminal penalties for an owner's failure to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage. Amends definition of "Dangerous Dog" to include that provision that the dog demonstrates a propensity for domination or aggressive behavior as indicated by any of the following types of conduct: (1) Unprovoked barking, growling, or snarling when people are present; (2) Aggressively running along fence lines when people are present; or (3) Escaping confinement or restraint to chase people. Amends the conditional requirements for obtaining a certificate of registration for a dangerous dog to provide that: (1) The owner maintains and can provide proof of general or specific liability insurance in the amount of at least \$500,000.00 issued by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state insuring the owner of the dangerous dog against liability for any bodily injury or property damage caused by the dog; and (2) The owner maintains and can provide proof of general or specific liability insurance in the amount of at least \$500,000.00 (CURRENTLY \$50,000.00) issued by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state insuring the owner of the vicious dog against liability for any bodily injury or property damage caused by the dog. Provides that any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or both, per violation. Provides that any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this article, and such failure results in physical injury to another person, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and, upon conviction, shall pay a fine of not more than \$5,000.00.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-13

Title

Dogs; protections for dogs kept outdoors; provide

Description

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the O.C.G.A., relating to dogs, so as to provide protections for dogs kept outdoors; to provide a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for certain requirements for unattended dogs kept outdoors; to provide for exceptions; to provide for penalties; to provide for statutory construction; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A., relating to jurisdiction, power, and duties of probate courts, so as to provide for jurisdiction; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Primary Sponsors

Kay Kirkpatrick, Chuck Hufstetler, Chuck Payne, Shelly Echols, Mike Dugan, Carden Summers, Bill Cowsert, Lee Anderson, Russ Goodman, Elena Parent, Sally Harrell, Randy Robertson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 28, 2023, 12:54 PM

The "Outdoor Dog Protection Act" amends Title 4 (Animals), Chapter 8 (Dogs) of the Official Code of GA Annotated by adding a new Article 3 (Georgia Safe Outdoor Dog Act) to provide standards of care for dogs kept outdoors. Provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to leave a dog outside and unattended without access to: 1) Adequate shelter; 2) Adequate water; 3) Adequate food; 4) An area that allows the dog to avoid standing water and exposure to excess animal waste and is of sufficient size for the animal to move around normally and exercise; and 5) Shade, whether by natural or artificial means, from direct sunlight that is separate from the shelter. Provides for restrictions for dogs left outside and unattended while attached to a restraint. Provides for certain exemptions. Provides penalty provisions for first, second and subsequent violations of this article.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-27

Title

Licensing of Veterinarians; certain sterilization services performed by out-of-state veterinarians from licensing requirements; exempt

Description

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians generally, so as to exempt certain sterilization services performed by out-of-state veterinarians from licensing requirements; to provide for temporary licenses for out-of-state veterinarians; to provide for exceptions; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Primary Sponsors

Kay Kirkpatrick, Larry Walker, Randy Robertson, Chuck Payne, Jason Anavitarte, Steve Gooch, Ricky Williams, Mike Hodges, Clint Dixon, Brian Strickland, John Kennedy, Dale Washburn

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 25, 2024, 11:37 AM

Amends Title 43 (Professions & Businesses), Chapter 50 (Veterinarians & Veterinary Technicians), Article 3 (Licensing), Part 2 (Licensing Generally) of the Code of Georgia by adding a new section to: (1) Exempt certain sterilization services performed by out-of-state veterinarians from licensing requirements; and (2) Provide for temporary licenses for out-of-state veterinarians. Provides that, no later than December 31, 2024, the Board shall adopt rules and regulations implementing a process by which the holder of an active veterinary license or veterinary technician license from another state, in good standing in such state, may qualify for a one-time, six-month temporary license, license by endorsement, or a combination thereof, for practice in government or nonprofit shelter medicine, nonprofit sterilization clinics, or nonprofit mobile sterilization programs registered with the State of Georgia. Provides that such process shall include the issuance of a license to an applicant based upon such applicant: (1) Holding a license from another state for which the training, experience, and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements of this state to obtain a license; and (2) Obtaining a specialty, certification, training, or other experience while employed in another state which substantially meets or exceeds the requirement to obtain a license in Georgia. For purposes of this section: "Shelter medicine" means veterinary practices used to manage the health of populations of animals handled by municipal animal shelters and private animal welfare or adoption. "Sterilization services" means procedures that meet or exceed veterinary medical standards of care in providing sterilization of dogs, cats, and pet rabbits.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-29

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