

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 4552 and 4385**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

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ADOPTED JANUARY 17, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Jones, Downey, Assemblymen Houghtaling, Mejia, Assemblywomen Vainieri, Huttle, Swain, Assemblyman Calabrese, Senators T.Kean, Cruz-Perez and Greenstein**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits leasing dogs and cats.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on June 27, 2019.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2019)

1 AN ACT prohibiting the leasing of dogs and cats and supplementing  
2 P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. It shall be an unlawful practice and a violation of  
8 P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) for a pet dealer, as defined in  
9 section 2 of P.L.1999, c.336 (C.56:8-93), to enter into a:

10 (1) contract for a cat or dog in which the transfer of ownership  
11 of the animal is contingent on the making of payments over a period  
12 of time subsequent to the transfer of possession of the animal,  
13 unless these payments are on an unsecured loan for the purchase of  
14 the animal; or

15 (2) lease agreement that provides for or offers the option of  
16 transferring ownership of a cat or dog at the end of the lease term.

17 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1966,  
18 c.39 (C.56:8-13) to the contrary, a pet dealer who violates this  
19 section shall be liable for the following penalties:

20 (1) for a first offense, a penalty of not more than \$10,000; and

21 (2) for a second or subsequent offense, a penalty of not more  
22 than \$30,000.

23 c. In addition to any other remedies provided by P.L.1960, c.39  
24 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) or any other applicable law, a consumer taking  
25 possession of a cat or dog pursuant to a contract or lease as  
26 described in subsection a. of this section shall be deemed the owner  
27 of the cat or dog, shall have a civil cause of action in any court of  
28 competent jurisdiction, and shall be entitled to recover all moneys  
29 paid by the consumer, litigation costs, and reasonable attorney's  
30 fees.

31 <sup>1</sup>d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to, and shall  
32 not prohibit the temporary leasing or rental of the following  
33 animals, provided the animals are used in accordance with  
34 applicable federal, State and local animal protection laws:

35 (1) A purebred cat or dog which is leased for the express  
36 purpose of breeding pursuant to a written lease recorded with a  
37 national purebred dog or cat registry, and which lease is for a  
38 specific time and has an established end-date; or

39 (2) An animal trained or utilized to perform tasks, including, but  
40 not limited to, guide dogs, security dogs, law enforcement dogs, and  
41 other assistance animals.<sup>1</sup>

42

43 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to any  
44 lease, contract, agreement, or transaction entered into on or after the  
45 effective date.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted June 27, 2019.