

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 4552 and 4385

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JANUARY 17, 2019

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SYNOPSIS

Prohibits leasing dogs and cats.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee.

(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:

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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.

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