

SENATE, No. 946

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOH to establish policies to reduce number of cats and dogs euthanized at shelters and pounds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the euthanizing of cats and dogs in shelters and
2 pounds and supplementing P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1 et seq.).

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Health, in consultation with the
8 shelters and pounds in the State and the municipalities that license
9 them pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.8), shall
10 establish a policy to be implemented by the shelters and pounds that
11 limits, to the greatest extent practicable, the number of cats and
12 dogs euthanized annually to no more than 10 percent of all cats and
13 dogs impounded in shelters and pounds throughout the State. Any
14 municipality that licenses a shelter or pound may establish
15 additional policies to support the goal set by this subsection.

16 b. In addition to the requirements established pursuant to
17 section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.16), each shelter and
18 pound in the State shall adopt and implement a program to reduce
19 the necessity of euthanizing cats and dogs in the shelter or pound,
20 which shall include, but not be limited to, cooperative agreements
21 with shelters and pounds in other states to relocate animals to
22 locations where adoptive owners have been identified, and use of
23 technology, social media, and websites to find homes for cats and
24 dogs in shelters or pounds.

25 c. Each shelter and pound in the State shall report annually to
26 the licensing municipality and the Department of Health the number
27 of cats and dogs received by the shelter or pound and the number of
28 cats and dogs euthanized by the shelter or pound on a monthly
29 basis. A shelter or pound reporting a greater than 40 percent
30 euthanasia rate shall be subject to license review and revocation
31 pursuant to the revocation process in section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151
32 (C.4:19-15.8). The Department of Health and the licensing
33 municipality shall review the policies and procedures implemented
34 by the shelter or pound at any shelter or pound reporting a greater
35 than 10 percent euthanasia rate, and shall make recommendations to
36 the shelter or pound for improvement of its operations that would
37 reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanized at the shelter or
38 pound.

39 d. As part of its annual budget request, the Department of
40 Health shall request moneys to provide shelters and pounds with
41 adequate funding to reduce the number of animals euthanized at
42 shelters or pounds due to the cost of caring for the animals.

43 e. The Department of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
44 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt
45 rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of P.L. ,
46 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the shelters and pounds in the State and the municipalities that license them, to establish a policy to be implemented by the shelters and pounds that limits, to the greatest extent practicable, the number of cats and dogs euthanized annually to no more than 10 percent of all cats and dogs impounded in shelters and pounds throughout the State. The bill also provides that any municipality that licenses a shelter or pound may establish additional policies to support that goal.

The bill also requires each shelter and pound in the State:

1) to adopt and implement a program to reduce the necessity of euthanizing cats and dogs in the shelter or pound, which includes, but is not limited to, cooperative agreements with shelters and pounds in other states to relocate animals to locations where adoptive owners have been identified, and use of technology, social media, and websites to find homes for cats and dogs in the shelter or pound;

2) to report annually to its licensing municipality and the DOH the number of cats and dogs received by the shelter or pound and the number of cats and dogs euthanized by the shelter or pound on a monthly basis.

Furthermore, the bill provides that any shelter or pound that reports:

1) a greater than 40 percent euthanasia rate would be subject to license review and revocation; and

2) a greater than 10 percent euthanasia rate would have its policies and procedures reviewed by the DOH and the licensing municipality, and receive recommendations for improvement of its operations that would reduce the number of cats and dogs euthanized at the shelter or pound.

Finally, the bill authorizes DOH to adopt rules and regulations and directs DOH to request, as part of its annual budget request, the moneys to provide shelters and pounds with adequate funding to reduce the number of animals euthanized at shelters or pounds due to the cost of caring for the animals.