



NEW HAMPSHIRE TO HOLD HEARING ON ANIMAL TRANSFER LICENSING

****HEARING SET FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 5th ****

The Issue.

New Hampshire House Bill 148, amending current state law on licensing to transfer household pets, will be heard before the House Environment & Agriculture Committee on Thursday, February 5, 2009. The bill changes licensing requirements to cover the “transfer”, instead of merely just the “sale”, of household pets, and adds proof of conformity with municipality zoning requirements before licensure.

The Impact.

This legislation states that “no person, corporation or other entity may engage in the business of transferring, with or without a fee or donation required, to the public, live animals or birds customarily used as household pets unless the premises on which they are housed, harbored or displayed for such purposes are duly licensed and inspected by the department of agriculture, markets, and food of the state of New Hampshire”. This requirement applies to commercial kennels and to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity engaged in the business of, including activity as a broker, transferring live animals or birds customarily used as household pets for transfer to the public, with or without a fee required, and whether or not a physical facility is owned by the licensee in New Hampshire when transfer to the final owner occurs within New Hampshire.

Under this legislation, in order to obtain a license, applicants must provide proof with the application that the zoning enforcement official of the municipality in which a facility is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to the municipal zoning regulations. Furthermore, no definition is provided to define “transfer”, but the bill provides that if an official health certificate is presented it serves as prima facie evidence of a transfer.

NOTE: As in the current statute, there is a separate section with additional licensing requirements for cats, dogs and ferrets that is also amended to include the changes presented by this bill.



Recommended Action.

As stated above, HB 148 will be heard before the House Committee on Environment & Agriculture on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 308 LOB in the State Capitol in Concord. We urge anyone who is affected by this legislation to attend if possible. If you are unable to attend we ask that you contact the committee members listed below with your comments and concerns.

The complete text of this bill can be found on the “Breaking News” page of the PIJAC website, www.pijac.org. If you have further questions concerning this bill please contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne by phone at 202-452-1525 or by email at bambi@pijac.org.

**State of New Hampshire
House Committee on Environment & Agriculture
State Capitol, Room 308 LOB
Concord, NH 03301
603/271-3125**

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