



PA 22-59—sHB 5170

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TETHERING AND SHELTERING OF DOGS

SUMMARY: This act creates requirements for adequate dog sheltering during certain adverse weather and outdoor conditions and applies additional requirements for dog tethering.

The act requires that a dog be given adequate shelter, as defined by the act, when the dog is outdoors for more than 15 minutes and either of the following occurs: (1) the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a weather advisory or warning or (2) adverse outdoor environmental conditions (e.g., extreme heat or cold) pose a risk to the dog's health or safety, based on the dog's breed, size, age, coat thickness, or physical condition. The act waives the requirement when the dog is in the presence of someone who is outside during the same weather warning or advisory or exposed to the same environmental conditions.

Prior law prohibited tethering a dog outdoors to a stationary object or mobile device for more than 15 minutes when (1) local, state, or federal authorities issue a weather advisory or warning or (2) adverse conditions pose a risk to the dog's health or safety based on the dog's breed, age, or physical condition. The act requires (1) the weather advisory or warning to be from the NWS and (2) consideration of the dog's size and coat thickness. It also prohibits tethering a dog to a stationary object or mobile device (e.g., trolley or pulley) without providing it potable water at least twice in each 24-hour period.

Anyone who violates these sheltering and tethering requirements is subject to a fine of \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for a second offense, and between \$250 and \$500 for a third or subsequent offense. This is the existing penalty for violations of the state's tethering law.

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

ADEQUATE SHELTER SCOPE

Under the act, "adequate shelter" is a structure that meets each of the following criteria:

1. provides natural or artificial light during daylight hours;
2. offers enough space for a dog to sit, lie down, and turn;
3. is soundly built, kept in good repair, and without accumulated animal waste, debris, and moisture (e.g., standing water and mud) both inside and in the shelter's immediate vicinity;
4. provides access to potable water at least twice in each 24-hour period;
5. has no space heater or wood- or fuel-burning equipment for space heating;

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

6. is not (a) under exterior stairs or (b) under or inside a motor vehicle; and
7. the floor, if built with wire or metal chain links, has appropriately sized links so that a dog's paws cannot be caught in them.

The structure must also, during extreme outdoor heat, provide enough shade and ventilation for a dog to maintain normal body temperature. And during cold outdoor weather, a shelter must (1) be raised at least two inches off the ground and sufficiently enclosed and insulated to allow a dog to maintain normal body temperature, (2) have a solid roof and walls and a wind-protected opening for entry and exit, and (3) have dry bedding.