

Comprehensive Amendment to the Pennsylvania Dog Law

HB 2525, PN 3766

Sponsor: Representative James Casorio

Date Introduced: 13 May 2008

Summary:

HB 2525 will create a new class of kennels, commercial breeding kennels, to provide essential minimum standards for the dogs that spend their lives in such kennel settings. Improvements to commercial breeding kennels include increasing the cage size to ensure the dogs are reasonably comfortable, providing access to an exercise area, annual veterinary examinations, limiting the stacking of cages, establishing daily cleaning standards, creating reasonable temperature, lighting, and ventilation standards, and requiring fire extinguishers.

Additionally, the statutory change would provide clear authority for the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to enforce the law against unlicensed kennels in the same manner it enforces the law for licensed kennels and sets forth a judicial appeals process; allows for inspections of the facility, provides for issuance of citations and civil penalties, and provides for removal of the dogs in the same limited circumstances as those that apply to licensed kennels to insure the welfare of the dogs. As with licensed kennels, the unlicensed kennels would be afforded the opportunity to appeal any action of the Department.