

H.B. 5368 Importing Animals for Adoption and H.B. 6320 Humane Education

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to-board members

date Thu, May 26, 2011 at 10:36 AM

subject

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Hello All,

Yesterday, May 25, Amendment A to H.B. 5368 was offered by the original bill sponsor Rep. Hurlburt and two co-sponsors, Rep. Urban and Rep. Chapin. The vote was 143 Yea, 2 Nay, 6 absent and not voting.

It was no surprise that Rep. Chapin signed on as a co-sponsor, as he has shown consistent support for CDF positions on animal related bills. The big surprise is that Rep. Urban is also listed as a co-sponsor. Rarely have she and CDF been in agreement on any bill. It may be that she seeking cooperative support for one or more of her favorite bills, possibly H.B. 6320 Humane Education. I have included below the new wording included in H.B. 5368 as adopted yesterday. The remaining wording in the seven-page bill is existing statute wording with minor revisions.

H.B. 6320 has shown no activity since it was placed on the House Calendar on March 21. Uncalled Amendment A to this bill, offered by bill sponsor Rep. Fleischmann earlier this month, would remove the words "funds become available from third-party donors" and "consult with animal welfare organizations", but substitute the words "donations from private sources". This is an improvement, but it would still allow private money into the public school systems: absolutely unacceptable. It would be money from the same sources as before; only the color of it would change. The amendment would also change the bill title to "An Act Concerning the Availability of Humane Education Materials to Public Schools". Neither the original bill nor Amendment A has appeared on a daily "Go List" of bills that could be heard that day, time permitting.

Ralph

H.B. 5368 Importing Animals for Adoption and H.B. 6320 Humane Education

(e)(1) No animal importer shall import any dog or cat into this state until such person registers as an animal importer with the commissioner. Such registration shall be on a form as prescribed by the commissioner. Such registration shall require the submission of the following information: (A) The name, mailing address, business address, telephone number and Internet address of such registrant, (B) if such registrant is domiciled out-of-state, the name, Connecticut address and phone number of a Connecticut-based agent for service of process, and (C) the number of animals brought into the state during the prior year by such animal importer and the state or country of origin for each such animal. Such registration shall be accompanied by payment of a fee of one hundred dollars and shall be valid until the December thirty-first following such registration. Such registration shall be renewed annually, in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, provided the commissioner determines that such registrant complies with any requirements provided by the commissioner as to the health, safety and humane treatment of animals that is applicable to animal importers. Such registration shall not be required for any employee or

volunteer of a registered animal importer or other person who is required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, provided such employee, volunteer or other person is not otherwise an animal importer. Any person who violates the provisions of this subdivision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

(2) Any animal importer who intends to offer for sale, adoption or transfer any dog or cat at a venue or location that is open to the public or at an outdoor location, including, but not limited to, a parking lot or shopping center, shall provide notice to the Department of Agriculture and the municipal zoning enforcement officer of the town where any such sale, adoption or transfer will occur, not later than ten days prior to such event. Such notice shall state the date for such sale, adoption or transfer event, the exact location of such event and the anticipated number of animals for sale, adoption or transfer at such event. Any person who fails to provide notice as required pursuant to this subdivision shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars per animal that is offered for sale, adoption or transfer at such event.

(3) For the purpose of this subsection, "animal importer" means a person who brings any dog or cat into this state from any other sovereign entity for the purpose of offering such dog or cat to any person for sale, adoption or transfer in exchange for any fee, sale, voluntary contribution, service or any other consideration. "Animal importer" includes any commercial or nonprofit animal rescue or adoption, humane relocation or delivery organization that is not otherwise required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to apply to any animal importer who offers a dog or cat for sale to a pet shop that is licensed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, provided such animal is delivered directly to a pet shop.

(5) The Commissioner of Agriculture may inspect any animal imported by an animal importer or any record required to be kept by such animal importer, provided such inspection shall not authorize the entry of the commissioner into the residence of such animal importer.