


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Chief <i>RC</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432. City Hall (410) 396-4941		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 18-0177-Animal Control and Protection-Sale, etc., of Dogs and Cats		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

February 05, 2018

Attention: Ms. Natawna Austin

We are responding to City Council Bill 18-0177-Animal Control and Protection-Sale etc., of Dogs and Cats, the purpose of which is to prohibit certain commercial establishments from selling or transferring, etc., or offering to sell or transfer, etc., any dog or cat; providing for certain penalties; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; and generally relating to the control and protection of dogs and cats.

Analysis

CCB 18-0177 would repeal and re-ordain Sections 10-101, 10-1101, and 10-1102 without amendment to include statutory definitions of animal fancier, animal shelter, cat, dog, and humane society, while also providing for the enforcement by citation (both environmental and civil) and classifying violations as misdemeanors with a basic penalty of \$1,000 for each day that a violation persists.

The bill amends Section 10-101, 10-210, and 10-216 to define a commercial establishment as any person engaged in the business of selling, transferring, or conveying animals or providing animal services excluding animal clinics, animal fanciers, and animal shelters. The amendments made to the aforementioned sections also include a licensure requirement for facilities providing services to animals and outlines prohibited conduct.

The bill also adds Section 10-217, which prohibits the offer and/or sale, barter, auction, give away or otherwise transfer or disposal of any dog or cat by commercial establishments. This section does not apply to the Humane Society, animal clinics, animal fanciers, animal shelters, or commercial kennels engaged in the breeding of dogs and cats. The section does not prevent a licensed commercial establishment from working with the humane society or other exempted facilities to get pets adopted.

Finally, the bill amends Article 1 to enumerate the cost of licenses as well as the Environmental Control Board and Civil Citations.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is likely to be negligible. Maryland state law prohibits pet stores from selling animals bred at puppy mills and currently, no pet stores in the City of Baltimore sell cats or dogs. Requiring commercial establishments to sell cats and dogs that are currently at shelters could reduce the shelter population and the need to euthanize large numbers of dogs and cats per year.

Finally, revenue generated from penalties is expected to be insignificant.

Recommendation

The Department of Finance has no objection to City Council Bill 18-0177.

cc: Henry Raymond
Angela Gibson