

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5283 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS,
Title: CATS AND RABBITS IN PET SHOPS.

Vote Date: 3/6/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2026

File No.:

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Planning and Development

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REASONS FOR BILL:

HB-5283 will authorize municipalities to prohibit the sale of certain animals in pet shops. It was introduced to promote animal welfare and allow municipalities to have the ability to regulate pet shops in a safe way.

This bill was introduced to give local control to municipalities which is necessary in discouraging puppy mills and protecting animals, consumers, and public health. It addresses issues with negligence and is a critical step in reducing animal suffering.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Commissioner, Bryan Hurlburt: comments that Connecticut already has a comprehensive regulatory framework for pet shops, including licensing, veterinary inspection requirements, and consumer protections like the “pet shop lemon law.” The testimony emphasizes that municipalities already have zoning authority over pet shops and notes that similar health and consumer safeguards do not apply to animals from rescues or online sellers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

41 anonymously: support HB 5283.

Molly Abrahams supports this bill because, as someone who has worked in a rabbit rescue and has owned many animals, there is concern about the level of care pet stores provide to pets.

Laura Arduino supports this bill.

Sherri Axcell supports this bill because it gives localities the chance to maintain humane animal practices and prevent puppy mills and poor animal welfare.

Anita Bardalai supports this testimony because animal welfare is important and pet stores are too greedy.

Director of Lucky Dog Refuge, Jessica Barnes, supports this bill because of the horrendous conditions within puppy mills and, therefore, pet stores. Pets should come from reputable sources.

Kathryn Belmont supports this bill.

Lauren Belmont supports this bill.

Melanie Bennett supports this bill.

Ms. Barbara Biel supports this bill.

Executive Director of the Connecticut Humane Society, James Bias, supports this bill because the changes that the bill suggests will be beneficial for all animal organizations and help maintain the welfare of animals.

Shannon Bielik supports this bill to ban puppy mills and ensure animal welfare.

Debra Bologna supports this bill to allow for local control and the banning of puppy mills.

Lisa Bonaldi supports this bill because it would help better regulate pet shops.

Jessica Bondell supports this bill.

Dawn Boothe supports this bill because local control is necessary to end the cruelty of puppy mills.

Jessika Borsiczky supports this bill because shelter animals need homes.

Michelle Boucher supports this bill.

Laura Boyd supports this bill to end the cruelty of puppy mills.

Audrey Brainerd supports this bill because of previous success in other states and for the good of animal and public health.

Peggy Breda supports this bill because there are too many pets without homes.

Representative Raghieb Allie-Brennan supports this bill because it provides clarity and will promote consumer protection and animal welfare.

Founder and Director of Animals-R-Family, Nicole Bruck, supports this bill because local control is necessary to end puppy mills, and the federal government has failed in its attempt to regulate this.

Kara Burdick supports this bill.

Lisa Buxgo supports this bill because there is an overwhelming number of homeless animals and there should be local control to address this issue and promote animal welfare.

Anabel Caba supports this bill.

Vice Chair of Legislative and Rules, Karen Camporeale, supports this bill and has urged the state to ban the sale of animals.

President of Desmond's Army, Robin Cannamela, supports this bill because pet shops serve as a retail outlet for large-scale breeding facilities, and this bill would provide clearer statutory authority for municipalities.

Sue Carpenter supports this bill because there are too many homeless pets and there is poor health standards within backyard breeders and puppy mills.

Lynne Cayer supports this bill because it would empower localities.

Renee Chotiner supports this bill because local control is necessary with the failure from the federal government to end the cruelty of puppy mills.

Joecelyn Colon supports this bill because too many animals are being mistreated and shelters are at full capacity.

Mechanical Engineer, Rodrigo Collada, supports this bill.

Anastasia Christoforides supports this bill.

Kristina Corder supports this bill.

Sharon Cregeen supports this bill because puppy, kitten, and rabbit mills continue to breed animals poorly, and cites that in New York this ban already exists and has been successful.

Danielle Crocker supports this bill because puppy mills have caused severe overpopulation, and shelters continue to euthanize animals.

Ava D supports this bill because pet stores should not be allowed to sell dogs, and there should be greater focus on finding homes for shelter animals.

RN Annata Daraz supports this bill to responsibly care for animals.

Arlene Darrow supports this bill.

Greg Davis supports this bill.

Sharon DeBernardo supports this bill.

Industrial Engineer, Amaia De Arcos Vila, supports this bill.

Sharon DeBernardo supports this bill.

Sarah DeFlumeri supports this bill because pet stores fail to account for health issues within animals and local shelters cannot handle the overflow.

Anna Derda supports this bill.

Ann Diamond supports this bill because it will resolve animal neglect and mistreatment.

Mrs. Emily Dickinson Adams supports this bill because of concern over animal cruelty within puppy mills.

Representative Matthew Didelot supports this bill due to constituent concerns about animal welfare.

Mrs. Kathy DiLullo supports this bill.

Alexandra Donati supports this bill because reputable breeders do not sell to pet shops and puppy mills are causing harm.

Victoria Donohue supports this bill because of past success in other states like New York and because the pet retail industry is fueled by greed with a disregard for animal welfare.

Kelly Dougherty supports this bill because localities should have more control over pet sales to stop the spread of puppy mills and the mistreatment of animals.

Ms. Christien Ducker supports this bill to help ban pet shops and help support rescue animals.

Nicole Ducsay supports this bill due to the overwhelming amount of homeless pets in poor health, and prohibiting pet stores would help address this issue.

Denise Durante supports this bill.

Roger Emerick supports this bill.

President of Bridgeport Cat Rescue, Nancy Esposito, supports this bill because there is concern for the health and well-being of animals, and people should take more advantage of non-profit animal rescues.

Radiation Therapist Wendy Fedor, supports this bill.

Michael Felix supports this bill.

Miss Deborah Ferry supports this bill.

Michael Field supports this bill because local shelters are swamped; this would allow them to thrive, and it will save taxpayer dollars on animal care.

Amanda Fisher supports this bill.

Kristine Ford supports this bill because local control is necessary in the failure of the federal government, and the pet resale industry is primarily supplied by puppy mills.

Court Reporter, John Frascatore, supports this bill.

Lucia Freitas supports this bill because of the overwhelming amount of homeless pets in communities across Connecticut and there is a history of poor health and living conditions within backyard breeders and puppy mills.

Monica Freitas supports this bill because it gives municipalities the authority to stop systemic abuse within pet shops and empowers communities to stop harmful breeding practices.

Scott Friedman supports this bill.

Fawn Garbonola supports this bill because there should be a ban on inhumane pet shops.

Fred Garbonola supports this bill because pet stores frequently purchase from puppy mills, which mistreat animals.

Stephanie Gatto supports this bill as an owner of rescue dogs and has witnessed the long term suffering pets endure in puppy mills.

Janice Gavitt supports this bill because pets deserve good homes and there are so many animals in shelters.

Katie Geddes supports this bill because federal control to help animals has failed and local control is necessary to keep pets safe.

Stephanie Gerber supports this bill.

Mrs. Linda Gilbert supports this bill because of the federal government's failure, and extending power to localities would promote responsible breeding and ensure animal welfare.

Angela Gizzi supports this.

Katherine Goldberg supports this.

Ms. Susan Goldstein supports this bill because of certain failures in federal government and the need for local control to promote animal welfare.

Lynne Gomez supports this bill because many pet shops prioritize profit over animal welfare and responsible breeders do not sell to pet shops.

Mr. Jose Luis Greco supports this bill.

Charlie Green supports this bill.

NancyLee Griffin supports this bill to end animal suffering and the destruction caused by puppy mills.

Andrea Gruszecki supports this bill to ensure responsible breeding and talks about the success of other states' bills similar to this.

Bridget Guzzardi supports this bill because it promotes responsible breeding and this new model has been proven to be successful.

Mr. Mark Halan supports this bill because of the federal failure to end the cruelty of puppy mills and wants better animal welfare.

Kelley Hall supports this bill because it is an important way to fight against the spread of puppy mills, and neighboring states have already enacted successful laws to promote animal welfare.

Leiba Harracksingh supports this bill because too many animals are suffering due to overbreeding and shelter dogs are not being adopted.

Jill Hartman supports this bill.

Ken Herren supports this bill because of the failure of the federal government and by empowering localities, there will be fewer puppy mills.

Deb Hoar supports this bill.

On behalf of the Animal Rights Center of Connecticut, Seana Horner supports this bill because retail pet stores operate more for profit than concern for animal welfare. Responsible breeders are also more transparent and do not sell to pet stores.

Connecticut Senior State Director for Humane World for Animals, Annie Hornish, supports this bill because it will remove legal confusion, address animal welfare, and protect public health and consumer protections.

Ms. Joanne Huber supports this bill because too many animals are euthanized and more people should buy pets from shelters rather than pet stores.

Joanne Hurd supports this bill.

Nicole Immediato supports this bill because animals are suffering due to breeding and there are too many neglected animals.

CT Cat Rescuer for Help for Pets, Nicola Improta, supports this bill because there are too many for profit breeders and pet shops, and people should be adopting pets instead.

Former Owner of Dawn's Pampered Pet, Dawn Johnson, supports this bill as a former pet care business provider who saw the health conditions of animals from pet stores.

Kristin Jones supports this bill.

Andrea and Chris Kerin support this bill.

Emily Keyes supports this bill

Legislative Advocacy Manager for CT Votes for Animals, Joshua Levin, supports the bill and giving municipalities clear statutory language.

CEO of Our Companions Animal Rescue, Susan Linker, supports the bill and its goal towards reducing animal suffering and responsible pet ownership.

Manager for Humane World, Dorrie Nang, supports the bill

Founder and President of Leo's Love - Legacy, Julia Nardi, supports the bill and prohibiting the sale of pets in pet shops. And argues that pet shops should only sell pet supplies.

Vice President-Treasurer of Desmond's Army, Linda Pleva, supports the bill and the ability for municipalities to prohibit the sale of pets. She argues among multiple points that it reduces the demand for inhumane breeding operations.

Board Member of Lucky Dog Refuge, Kristen Roeckle, supports the bill and gives municipalities local control and clarifies authority. She argues this also strengthens consumer protection.

Member of Lucky Dog Refuge, Matthew Witek, supports the bill

RN with My House, Diane-Michele Petrillo, supports the bill and the clarifying language that allows municipalities to ban the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits by pet shops.

Member of Operation Paws on the Ground, Iolanda Silva, supports the bill and adds they've seen the neglect of the animals in the store and argues that there is no need to sell animals.

Deputy Majority Leader of the Stamford Board of Representatives, Maureen Pollack, supports the bill and argues it provides clarity and brings back local choice. And allows law to reflect what citizens have made clear in their choices.

Member of the Stamford Board of Representatives, Glenn Price, supports the bill

Representative of District 14, Stamford Board of Representatives, Andrew Zachary, supports the bill and an end to "puppy mills"

Danbury City Councilman for the 2nd Ward, John Laughinghouse, supports the bill and its intent to empower communities to act responsibly and protect families from preventable harm.

State Representative for District 19, John Pelliccia, supports the bill and notes that Stamford's Board of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution urging the legislature to allow municipalities to prohibit the sale of certain animals in pet shops. He emphasizes that this authority would reflect community values, promote humane treatment, and address concerns about animals sourced from large-scale breeding facilities with limited oversight.

Former State Representative, Kim Rose, supports the bill

Owner of LaunchpadHR Services LLC, Jennifer Volker, supports the bill

Principal of Out of the Box Consulting, Micki Tiffen, supports the bill

Professor at Yale University, Shirley McCarthy, supports the bill and add that local control is necessary since the federal government has failed to limit puppy mills. She adds responsible breeders never sell to pet shops.

Animal Welfare Advocate, Wendy Shanahan, supports the bill and argues that it would greatly reduce the suffering of the animals in these shops.

Animal Advocate, Jaye Markwell, supports the bill and argues that pet shops often source animals from inhumane commercial breeders and mislead customers about animal welfare, leading to health and behavioral issues for purchased pets. They urge giving municipalities the authority to ban pet shop animal sales, emphasizing that current state regulation fails to address cruelty at the source.

Senior Dog Rescuer, Natalie Langlois, supports the bill and reminds the amount of suffering animals face in breeding mills. She asks for folks to look at ASPCA and the Humane Society to understand the amount of mistreatment animals face.

Veterinary Technician, Brittany St. Pierre, supports the bill and argues that pet shops source poorly bred animals from unethical high-volume breeders, leading to health, behavioral, and financial harm while contributing to pet overpopulation.

Animal Care Technician, Desiree Rodriguez, supports the bill.

End Puppy Mills advocate with Humane World for Animals, Melissa Mancini, supports the bill and advocates for the end to puppy mills.

The following names wrote in support of the bill:

Elizabeth Kiernan supports
Susan King supports
Samantha Klein supports
Diana Kolaj supports
Karen Laski supports
Jenn Lawlor supports
Lauren LeBlanc supports
Susan Lennon supports
Ashley Ley supports
D. Li supports
Heather Lindner supports
Susie Lockwood supports
Glaucia Lolli supports
Megan Lombardi supports
Noreen Lotko supports
Maria Lovello supports
Laura Lynch supports
Bonnie Mahon supports
Robin Majlak supports
David Mamula supports
Kate Marchwinski supports
Kelly Marchwinski supports
Maureen Marchwinski supports
Christy Mattoon supports
Anne Mazzone supports
Janine McCormick supports
Michael McKeown supports
David Michel supports
Davis Miller supports
Noreen Mola supports
Mitzy Cruz Montanez supports
Kasey Moreira supports
Jodie Moscony supports
Anna Nayshul supports
Honorah Neill supports
Linda Nelli supports
Faith Nigro supports
Michael Oneglia supports
Elisa Ordazzo supports

John Ostaszewski supports
Sarah Pelliccia supports
Kathleen Perez supports
Wendy Perkins supports
Taylor Persons supports
Sheryl Pierson supports
Cindy Potter supports
Susan Putney supports
Holly Quintiliano supports
Lucy Regan supports
Dorothy Rich supports
Christine Ritter supports
Alfonso Robinson supports
Christopher Rohland supports
Megin Rollo supports
Bettina Rossi supports
Barbara Rudnick supports
Nicholas Ruiz supports
Liz Sansom supports
Christopher Santora supports
AJ Schrag supports
Samantha Scoca supports
Mary Sena supports
Adam Shea supports
Tom Shea supports
Peter Shields supports
G. Simmons supports
Andrea Simon supports
Laura Simon supports
Nikita Singh Green supports
Nicole Smith supports
Susan Smith supports
Paula Snedeker supports
Phillip Sobask supports
Michelle Speranza supports
Katherine Stapp supports
Hope M. Stefenson supports
Deb Sutfin supports
Nancy A. Tashash supports
Patricia Testa supports
Judy Thompson supports
Lisa Tobias supports
Mary Toepfer supports
Terry Troisi supports
Lesley Vainder supports
Christine Vaughn supports
Jamila Viandier supports
Chris Waller supports
Kevin Walsh supports

Tyler Webster supports
Sally Westcott supports
Carla White supports
Aubrey Whitten supports
Mandy Wieting supports
Karen Williams supports
Winn Wilson supports
Kathy Worth supports
Nicolle Wuchek supports
Margaret Ziolkowski supports
Alison Zyla supports

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

813 people anonymously: oppose HB-5283 because they believe there are already enough regulations on pet stores to ensure safety and health within said operations.

A-Z Pet Shop Associate Elijah A opposes this bill as an employee at a local pet shop. While HB-5283 is well intentioned, it is misguided and will harm regularly inspected and safely regulated pet shops in Connecticut.

Thomas Allison opposes this bill due to the concern that shutting down retail pet stores will only encourage retail pet rescues which are unregulated and produce high adoption fees.

Employee of All Pets Club, Nicole Avila, opposes this bill as a pet owner and employee due to concern of the shutdown of a small-town pet store.

Chris Banks opposes this bill because there are strict enough USDA and Connecticut laws in place to maintain safe pet stores.

Emma Arsenault opposes this bill because she says the issue stems from the unethical breeders and sellers, not the small pet shops already struggling.

Pet Counselor Sales Associate, Jurdine Barnes, opposes this bill as an employee of Safari Stan's, a pet shop in New Haven. This bill would remove a safe and affordable option for prospective pet owners.

Enoc Castillo opposes this bill because he says Connecticut already regulates and inspects pet stores and provides consumer protections.

Vivian Celentano opposes this bill as a pet owner who purchased her dog from a locally owned business in Branford.

Dr. Linda Dalessio opposes this bill because it penalizes reputable businesses and will ultimately drive business out of Connecticut altogether.

Darcie Cello opposes this bill as someone who has worked in the pet business for over 35 years, saying pet stores are a legal and regulated source.

Scott Conover opposes this bill as someone who has shopped at a local pet store for the last 20 years and says that pet shops operate with a high standard of care.

Patricia Delaney opposes this bill because there are too many homeless animals in bad health and that the shelters are full.

June Di Marzo opposes this bill because the root of the problem (puppy mills and unscrupulous breeders) is not being banned. There is also concern for small businesses closing and laying off employees.

Alexander Dick opposes this bill due to the harm that would come to small, lawful, and ethical pet shops.

Gina DiNardo opposes this bill due to concern for pet scams and the risks this poses for public health and the spread of disease, as well as concerns about consumer freedom being limited.

Elizabeth Dousa opposes this bill because the current laws in place are fair.

Stephanie Escalanti opposes this bill because Connecticut already has protections in place for consumers and does not want to eliminate transparency and accountability.

Cynthia Esteves opposes this bill due to the worry about animal abuse.

Owner of All Pets Club, Edmond Foucault, opposes this bill as someone who co-owns a small chain of pet retail stores in Connecticut. There is concern over consistency for municipalities with the same pet store in different locations, resulting in potential fragmented policy. This bill also puts 80 All Pets Club employees at risk of losing their jobs.

Neal Goodwin opposes this bill because state law already provides proper licensing and inspections of pet stores, as well as consumer protections. There is also concern for public health.

Employee of Safari Stan's, Sai Govada opposes this bill as someone with hands on experience of the health and cleaning procedures in this specific pet shop. There is concern for online unregulated sellers if regulated pet stores are eliminated.

Director of Policy Analysis for the American Kennel Club, Phil Guidry, opposes this bill as a member of an organization that is not-for-profit and promotes animal welfare. There is concern for previous implementation of bans across the state, consumers going to online and fraudulent websites, and the threat that the bill poses to small businesses.

Dennis Hamilton opposes the bill because pet stores are properly regulated.

David Hartley opposes this bill as an advocate of consumer rights and supporter of regulated pet stores in Connecticut. There is concern over fragmented regulations across the state and the potential difficulty for the Department of Agriculture to properly oversee correct standards of care.

Community Member, Asha Hazelton opposes this bill because eliminating licensed stores would reduce transparency and accountability.

Co-founder of Red Leash Rescue, Diane Holcombe opposes this bill because reputable breeders do not sell to pet shops and burdens the rescue community.

Aubrey Knudsen opposes this bill as someone with personal experience in a local pet store and wants to have freedom in where they purchase a future pet.

Educator Helena Kordowska opposes this bill because Connecticut already properly regulates pet stores.

Owner of Safari Stan's Pet Center, Togi Kuttamperoor, opposes this bill due to its impact on responsible pet shops, unintended consequences for animal welfare, and the economic and community impact. This person also says there is already existing regulation and enforcement that maintain animal welfare currently.

President of the CT Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners, Laurie Maulucci opposes this bill because the state already has a proven system of licensing, inspections, and consumer protections in place. This person also has concern for the unintended consequences of banning retail pet shops in relation to public health.

Kelly McClay opposes this bill because the limiting of pet store sales will make people seek out unlicensed and poorly regulated sellers, which can hurt local business and animal welfare.

Employee of Safari Stan's Pet Center, Anu Mohan, opposes this bill because under Connecticut law, pet stores are already regulated. This person thinks a better solution would be to create uniform care standards and not removing businesses that operate responsibly.

Owner of a Wallingford Dog Rescue, Erin Munroe, opposes this bill because families who do not have the ability to adopt from a shelter for personal reasons deserve the opportunity to find a pet from a regulated pet shop.

Lisandy Ortiz opposes this bill because there is already regulation for the sales of animals.

Community Member, Brian Patino opposes this bill because Connecticut already regulates and inspects pet stores, and eliminating licensed stores would reduce transparency.

Dave Pavelka opposes this bill because of a happy experience with a pet shop in Branford and believes in the choice of where to get a pet.

Jeanne Peabody opposes this bill because it would increase the amount of animals in kill centers.

Christine Peddy opposes this bills because Connecticut already regulates pet shops and provides consumer protections.

William Perillo opposes this bill.

Isaac Pierce opposes this bill as a pet owner and customer of Safari Stan's, who is concerned that getting rid of pet stores will cause more people to use unregulated sources and could fall victim to fraud.

Owner of All Pets Club, Gerald Pleban, opposes this bill because it would undermine animal welfare in Connecticut and the implications it could have on local businesses, employees, and consumers.

Derek Reid opposes this bill because Connecticut already regulates and inspects pet stores.

Lori Riley opposes this bill.

Aydyn Rodriguez opposes this bill because dogs deserve to find a home.

Manager at Safari Stan's Pet Center, Victoria Rose, opposes this bill because the demand for pets will not disappear with the removal of local pet shops and this will only push people to find pets in unsafe places.

Employee of A to Z Pet Shop, Jordyn Ruiz, opposes this bill Connecticut law already requires pet stores and licensed breeders to follow strict regulations and recommends strengthening care standards for all animal caretakers.

Owner of FurEver Friends Danbury, Bryanna Russo, opposes this bill because the bill does not fully address animal welfare and will not stop irresponsible breeding or animal suffering. There is also concern for consumer protection and harms responsible businesses.

Jailyn Santana opposes this bill because it will not stop bad breeders and Connecticut law already regulates and inspects pet stores enough.

Employee of The Dog House, Arianna Sargent, opposes this bill because they believe it is misguided and will not prevent unethical breeders from operating, as well as concern over potential job losses.

Courtney Sepeck opposes this bill because pet retail bans have resulted in harmful consequences, citing data from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Better Business Bureau.

Pet Counselor at Safari Stan's Pet Center, Asela Shabazz, opposes this bill because it could potentially harm regulated and inspected pet stores and worries about the wellbeing of animals if people are forced to find pets elsewhere.

Loretta Staufenberg opposes this bill.

President of the National Animal Interest Alliance, Patti Strand, opposes this bill because Connecticut has already enacted comprehensive state-level regulations that ensure animal safety and consumer protections.

Veronique Van Pottlebergh opposes this bill because of concern for small businesses.

Pet Counselor at Safari Stan's Pet Center, Anajah Williams, opposes this bill because from personal experience, there are very well-regulated pet stores and places that responsibly inform their customers of paperwork and goals in taking care of a pet.

Matthew Wint opposes this bill because there is already regulated pet stores and consumer protections in place.

Tyler Zak opposes this bill as a Connecticut resident and owner of many dogs. There is concern for quality breeding and consumer's loss of freedom.

Business Operations Representative for Smart Puppies for Sale, Eve Zhitnikov opposes this bill because it could disrupt Connecticut's regulation uniformity and reduce consumer transparency.

Owner of Smart Puppies for Sale, Oleg Zhitnikov, opposes this bill because pet stores already comply with state regulations and this would target certain municipalities.

Faith Fleming opposes this bill.

Reported by: Ellie Rosen & Christian Talarski

Date: 3/17/26