



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 318

LCO No. 1660



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The State Veterinarian
2 shall identify one or more contact persons for victims of domestic
3 violence in the state who need to place their companion animal in the
4 care of another person due to such circumstance. Any such contact
5 person shall be accessible by telephone, text message or electronic mail
6 at any point during any calendar day and shall be a resource for
7 informing any such victim of locations of animal rescue organizations,
8 dog pounds or regional animal control facilities who, at such point
9 during such calendar day, can serve as a location for placement of such
10 victim's companion animal on a temporary or permanent basis. The
11 State Veterinarian shall cause the name and contact information of any
12 such contact person to be regularly updated and disseminated to the
13 Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, any other domestic
14 violence organization in the state, and each police department, dog
15 pound, regional animal control facility and animal rescue organization
16 in the state. The State Veterinarian shall work with any such animal
17 rescue organization, dog pound and regional animal control facility to

18 provide such availability to serve as a location for such companion
19 animals on a twenty-four-hour basis.

20 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 22-26f of the 2026 supplement to the
21 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
22 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

23 (d) The State Veterinarian may issue orders to prevent the spread of
24 [contagious and infectious diseases] disease among animals and poultry
25 and may protect the public from such diseases as may be transmissible
26 to human beings, either directly or through the products of such
27 animals.

28 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the
29 Commissioner of Agriculture shall convene a working group within the
30 Department of Agriculture to study the animal population control
31 program, established pursuant to section 22-380g of the general statutes,
32 and develop recommendations concerning such program, including,
33 but not limited to, ways to augment and stabilize the funding of such
34 program. Such working group shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of
35 Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the executive director
36 of the Connecticut Humane Society, or the executive director's designee,
37 (3) a representative from an animal rights organization, as appointed by
38 the commissioner, (4) a representative from the Connecticut Veterinary
39 Medical Association, (5) a representative of an organization that
40 represents animal control officers, and (6) any additional members, as
41 deemed necessary by the commissioner. The commissioner, on or before
42 January 1, 2027, shall submit the recommendations of such working
43 group to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
44 cognizance of matters related to the environment, in accordance with
45 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section

Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	22-26f(d)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To identify resources for persons needing to place their companion animal in another person's care due to a domestic violence situation and to clarify the authority of the State Veterinarian to combat disease among companion animals and establish a working group to study ways to improve the funding of the animal population control program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]