

ASSEMBLY, No. 2663

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY CHIAPPONE

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Provides that court shall make order respecting custody of domestic companion animals in divorce upon request.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning domestic companion animals and
2 supplementing Title 2A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. As used in this section, "domestic companion animal"
8 means any animal commonly referred to as a pet or one that has
9 been bought, bred, raised or otherwise acquired, in accordance with
10 local ordinances and State and federal law for the primary purpose
11 of providing companionship to the owner, rather than for business
12 or agricultural purposes.

13 b. Upon request of either party, the court shall enter an order
14 concerning the custody of a domestic companion animal after
15 considering all relevant factors.

16 c. Parties may enter into an enforceable agreement regarding the
17 care or custody of a domestic companion animal that may include:
18 (1) the periods of time during which each party will possess the
19 domestic companion animal; and (2) the financial responsibility of
20 each party regarding the care of the domestic companion animal.

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22 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
23 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill provides that parties to a divorce may enter into
29 agreements regarding domestic companion animals. The bill also
30 provides that in a divorce proceeding, upon the request of either
31 party, the court shall enter an order concerning the custody of a
32 domestic companion animal after considering all relevant factors.
33 As used in the bill, "domestic companion animal" means any animal
34 commonly referred to as a pet or one that has been bought, bred,
35 raised or otherwise acquired, in accordance with local ordinances
36 and State and federal law for the primary purpose of providing
37 companionship to the owner, rather than for business or agricultural
38 purposes.