

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 136**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

SYNOPSIS

Encourages municipalities to require that pet shops only sell cats or dogs obtained from shelters, pounds, or animal rescue organizations, and counties to enforce requirement wherever adopted.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** encouraging municipalities to
2 require that pet shops only sell cats or dogs obtained from
3 shelters, pounds, or animal rescue organizations, and counties to
4 enforce the requirement wherever adopted.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, For more than two decades, the media has reported that
7 large-scale, commercial breeding facilities often engage in poor
8 breeding practices and provide inadequate living conditions for
9 their cats or dogs; and

10 **WHEREAS**, These facilities, commonly referred to as “kitten mills” and
11 “puppy mills,” often produce cats and dogs that have serious
12 illnesses or congenital defects, which lead to an early death for the
13 cat or dog or thousands of dollars of veterinary expenses for the
14 consumer who purchased the cat or dog; and

15 **WHEREAS**, According to the Humane Society of the United States, an
16 estimated 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies
17 each year in the United States, and hundreds of thousands of these
18 puppies are sold to pet shops for resale to would-be pet owners; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The “Pet Purchase Protection Act,” P.L.1999, c.336
20 (C.56:8-92 et seq.), was enacted by the Legislature to attack this
21 problem in New Jersey, but has not yet resulted in eliminating pet
22 shops in the State dealing in cats and dogs from kitten mills and
23 puppy mills; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Shelters, pounds, and animal rescue organizations in the
25 State are often in desperate need of finding homes for the cats and
26 dogs in their care when they can no longer sufficiently fund proper
27 housing and feeding of those animals; and

28 **WHEREAS**, An estimated 21,000 cats and dogs are euthanized in New
29 Jersey annually, many of which could be spared if an owner could
30 be found for the animal; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders
32 proposed in September 2015 that pet shops only sell cats and dogs
33 obtained from shelters, pounds, or animal rescue organizations;
34 and

35 **WHEREAS**, Such a requirement seems prudent in the face of the
36 amount of suffering imposed on both pet owners and their pets by
37 these poor breeding practices and attendant living conditions, but
38 each municipality has been granted by State law the authority to
39 license pet shops; and

40 **WHEREAS**, In lieu of being required to do so by the State, each
41 municipality should be allowed to determine whether such a
42 requirement should be imposed in the municipality; and

43 **WHEREAS**, It also seems efficacious and reasonable for a county to
44 help a municipality enforce this requirement, if established in any
45 municipality within the county; and

46 **WHEREAS**, It is all together fitting and proper for the Legislature to
47 encourage, but not require, each municipality in the State to
48 establish the requirement, by adoption of a resolution or ordinance,

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1 as appropriate, that the pet shops within its jurisdiction only sell
2 cats or dogs obtained from shelters, pounds, or animal rescue
3 organizations, and the county within which any such municipality is
4 located to help enforce any such resolution or ordinance.

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6 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
7 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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9 1. Each municipality in the State is encouraged to establish the
10 requirement, by adoption of a resolution or ordinance, as
11 appropriate, that pet shops within its jurisdiction only sell cats or
12 dogs obtained from shelters, pounds, or animal rescue
13 organizations. Each municipality is also encouraged to establish
14 this requirement as a condition for licensing a pet shop.

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16 2. Each county is encouraged to help enforce any such
17 resolution or ordinance adopted by a municipality within the
18 county's jurisdiction, and each county is encouraged to accept and
19 implement this enforcing authority.

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21 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
22 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
23 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Commissioner of
24 Health, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey
25 Association of Counties, and the governing body of each
26 municipality and county in the State.

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STATEMENT

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31 This concurrent resolution encourages each municipality in the
32 State to establish the requirement that pet shops within its
33 jurisdiction only sell cats or dogs obtained from shelters, pounds, or
34 animal rescue organizations. The municipality would accomplish
35 this by adopting a resolution or ordinance, as appropriate. The
36 concurrent resolution also encourages each municipality, where
37 such a requirement is established, to allow for the county in which
38 the municipality is located to help enforce the resolution or
39 ordinance, and each such county to accept and implement this
40 enforcing authority.