

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 128**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

**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.



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,

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; now,  
5 therefore,

6  
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
8 Jersey (the Senate concurring):  
9

10 1. Each municipality in the State is encouraged to establish the  
11 requirement, by adoption of a resolution or ordinance, as  
12 appropriate, that pet shops within its jurisdiction only sell cats or  
13 dogs obtained from shelters, pounds, or animal rescue  
14 organizations. Each municipality is also encouraged to establish  
15 this requirement as a condition for licensing a pet shop.  
16

17 2. Each county is encouraged to help enforce any such  
18 resolution or ordinance adopted by a municipality within the  
19 county's jurisdiction, and each county is encouraged to accept and  
20 implement this enforcing authority.  
21

22 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
23 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
24 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Commissioner of  
25 Health, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey  
26 Association of Counties, and the governing body of each  
27 municipality and county in the State.  
28

29  
30 STATEMENT  
31

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