

House Bill 1106 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Maddox of the 172nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to animal protection, so as to provide that animal
3 shelters and similar facilities shall scan animals for microchips upon receipt and prior to
4 euthanasia; to define a certain term; to provide that a reasonable effort shall be made to
5 contact the owner; to provide for a waiver of liability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 general provisions relative to animal protection, is amended by adding a new Code section
11 to read as follows:

12 "4-11-5.2.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'microchip reader' means a device designed to
14 read microchips at 125 kHz, both encrypted and nonencrypted, 128 kHz, and 134.2 kHz,
15 and which is ISO 11784 and 11785 compliant.

16 (b) When any dog, cat, or other large animal traditionally kept as a household pet is
17 brought to an animal shelter or other facility operated for the collection and care of stray,
18 neglected, or abandoned animals, the operator of the facility shall, if the owner of the
19 animal is not known, within 24 hours or as soon as possible scan for the presence of an
20 identifying microchip through the use of a microchip reader. If a microchip is found, the
21 operator shall make a reasonable effort to contact the owner of the animal. Prior to
22 euthanizing a dog, cat, or other large animal traditionally kept as a household pet, any
23 facility referred to in this subsection shall again scan for the presence of an identifying
24 microchip through the use of a microchip reader.

25 (c) Shelters and facilities and their employees and the Department of Agriculture shall not
26 be liable for failing to detect a microchip or failing to contact the owner of the animal.

27 Shelter personnel shall not be required to scan any animal they deem to be too vicious or
28 dangerous to permit safe handling."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.