

House Bill 409

By: Representatives Knight of the 130<sup>th</sup>, Roberts of the 155<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, and Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit local  
3 governments from adopting certain regulations pertaining to animals; to amend Code Section  
4 4-8-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to intent of chapter regulating dogs,  
5 so as to limit authority of local governments to establish dog control regulations; to provide  
6 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to provisions  
10 applicable to counties and municipal corporations, is amended by adding a new Code section  
11 to read as follows:

12 "36-60-27.

13 No county, municipality, or local authority shall, except to the extent authorized by state  
14 or federal law, adopt any ordinance, resolution, or local law:

15 (1) Requiring the spaying or neutering of any animal;

16 (2) Requiring a higher license, registration, or ownership fee or tax for animals which  
17 are not spayed or neutered;

18 (3) Preventing the ownership, breeding, transfer, sale, purchase, tethering, training, or  
19 transportation of dogs used for the lawful pursuit of game, field trials, shows, or disability  
20 services; or

21 (4) Banning the sale or ownership of any specific breed of domestic dog or cat."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Code Section 4-8-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to intent of chapter  
24 regulating dogs, is amended as follows:

25 "4-8-1.

26 It is the intention of this chapter to establish as state law minimum standards for the control  
27 and regulation of dogs and to establish state crimes for violations of such minimum  
28 standards. ~~However, this chapter shall not prohibit~~ Except as provided in Code Section  
29 36-60-27, local governments shall not be prohibited from adopting and enforcing  
30 ordinances or resolutions which provide for more restrictive control and regulation of dogs  
31 than the minimum standards provided for in this chapter."

32 **SECTION 3.**

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