

Senate Bill 590

By: Senators Summers of the 13th, Albers of the 56th, Goodman of the 8th, Robertson of the 29th, Hodges of the 3rd and others

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 animal protection generally, so as to strengthen protections for dogs possessed for
3 breeding purposes; to provide a definition; to expand minimum standards of care applicable
4 to dog breeders; to limit the total number of dogs that may be possessed for breeding
5 purposes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "4-11-10.2.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'dog breeder' means any person who:

12 (1) Sells or offers for sale any offspring of dogs bred or produced by such person,
13 regardless of whether such person also sells or offers for sale other animals; or

14 (2) Exercises custody, control, possession, or ownership of more than four intact female
15 dogs for the purpose of breeding and selling or offering for sale the offspring of such
16 dogs.

17 (b) A dog breeder shall, in addition to any other requirements set forth in this chapter, at
18 minimum provide each dog for which such breeder exercises custody, control, possession,
19 or ownership of with:

20 (1) Adequate housing, including, but not limited to, ensuring that the primary enclosure
21 of each dog:

22 (A) Is sufficient in size to permit the dog to lie down while fully extended without the
23 head, face, tail, legs, or feet of such dog touching the sides of the enclosure or touching
24 any other animal in the enclosure;

25 (B) Has an interior height that is at least six inches higher than the head of the dog
26 when such dog is in a normal standing position;

27 (C) Is at least three times the length and width of the dog, from tip of nose to base of
28 tail and shoulder blade to shoulder blade;

29 (D) Provides access to suitable shelter, including, but not limited to, shelter that:

30 (i) Is not an open structure or only covered by a tarp or similar material;

31 (ii) Allows the dog to remain dry during rain or snow and protects such dog from
32 wind and excessive heat or cold, including, but not limited to, providing sufficient and
33 clean bedding material; and

34 (iii) Provides sufficient shade to protect the dog from overheating or other direct
35 effects of the sun.

36 (2) Veterinary care that a prudent veterinarian would provide to a dog for the purpose of
37 preventing, diagnosing, or treating an illness, injury, or disease or its symptoms in a
38 manner that is:

39 (A) In accordance with generally accepted standards of the practice of veterinary
40 medicine;

41 (B) Appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration; and

42 (C) Not primarily for the economic benefit of the veterinarian;

- 43 (3) Regular exercise which is sufficient and appropriate for the particular breed of dog;
44 and
45 (4) Rest and recovery between breeding cycles in accordance with generally accepted
46 dog breeding standards.
47 (c) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this chapter, no person shall exercise
48 custody, control, possession, or ownership of more than 30 dogs for the purpose of
49 breeding and selling or offering for sale the offspring of such dogs."

50

SECTION 2.

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