

City: Winchester

KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Commonwealth Bill

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Referred to Committee: House 3

☐ Defeated

☐ Defeated

Sponsors: Olivia Montgomery, Breauna Simpson, Nicholas Hounshell, Courtney Miles	Action on the Bill		
School: George Rogers Clark HS	House	Senate	
	□ Passed	□ Passed	

AN ACT relating to prevent the cruel punishment of dogs through the use of puppy mills

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: A puppy mill is an establishment that breeds dogs in a way that the dogs will sell for the highest price, typically disregarding the dog's overall well-being and placing it in inhumane conditions. In 2012, the HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) rated Kentucky as one of the five lowest-ranking states in America with regards to regulations of puppy mills. As of 2017, there are no state regulations that monitor breeding establishments. This act will place restrictions and establish fines on breeders for poor conditions in their kennels or cruel treatment of dogs.

Section 2: This bill will require all breeding establishments to be licensed, as well as pay an initial fee of \$150 in their opening and a yearly fee of \$75. In addition, breeding establishments will be unexpectedly inspected approximately every 3 years. All breeding establishments should expect to be visited at least once within a three-year period by an inspector from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Section 3: The Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture will be the enforcement and licensing agency. Employees will be trained by this department to gain the ability to properly inspect breeding establishments.

Section 4: Regulations for acquiring licensure and passing of inspection are:

- Proper food and water for each dog that insures they are nourished and healthy. Food and
 water should be easily accessible to the dog (unless the dog requires scheduled meals, in which
 it will still have access to water)
- A kennel size that is at least two times the size of the dog itself (Ex. A dog that is two feet tall will have a kennel that is four feet high)
- Clean kennels for each dog that is free of waste, including clean bedding
- Proper exercising space for all dogs (Ex. A field to run in and/or a play pen). Each dog should get the proper daily exercise for its breed.

Section 5: Penalties for the violation of breeding regulations include: 1st offense: Fine of \$5,000 and the suspension of the breeder's license for six months 2nd offense: Fine of \$5,000 and the suspension of the breeder's license for 18 months 3rd offense: The revocation of the breeder's license, as well as a \$10,000 fine.

Section 6: The additional cost that may be inflicted upon the Kentucky Department of Agriculture will be covered by the fees that breeding establishments must pay, as well as any money that comes from the violation of regulations.

Section 7: This act will go into effect on August 26, 2018.