

26105924D

SENATE BILL NO. 792

Offered January 23, 2026

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered § 3.2-6511.3, relating to pet shops; sale of puppy mill dogs prohibited; civil penalty.

Patron—Stanley

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered § 3.2-6511.3 as follows:****§ 3.2-6511.3. Pet shops; sale of puppy mill dogs prohibited; civil penalty.***A. For the purposes of this section:*

"Puppy mill" means a dog breeding operation that (i) maintains dogs in conditions that fail to provide adequate care, adequate exercise, adequate shelter, or adequate space; (ii) houses dogs in overcrowded, unsanitary, or inhumane conditions; (iii) operates with a primary purpose of maximizing profit through volume production of dogs while failing to provide adequate care; or (iv) has been cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for direct or critical violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) within the preceding two years, or has received two consecutive citations for refusal to allow facility access for inspection.

*"Puppy mill dog" means a dog that was bred by, born at, raised by, or obtained from a puppy mill.**B. It is unlawful for any pet shop to knowingly sell, offer for sale, or transfer any puppy mill dog.*

C. Any pet shop that violates the provisions of this section is subject to a civil penalty of \$2,000 per dog offered for sale, sold, or transferred in violation of this section. All civil penalties assessed under this section shall be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General in the name of the Commonwealth. Such civil penalties shall be paid into a special fund in the state treasury to the credit of the Department to be used in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

INTRODUCED

SB792