

H. B. 4536

(By Delegates Overington, Shook, Brown and Rowan)
[Introduced February 14, 2008; referred to the
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources then the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §19-20-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring registration as kennel by persons who maintain twenty or more adult dogs or cats.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §19-20-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 20. DOGS AND CATS.

§19-20-3. Registration of dog kennels; application; fee; expiration of certificate of registration.

Every owner or operator of a kennel, wherein dogs are bred, kept, boarded or sold as a commercial venture for profit and any owner of twenty or more adult dogs or cats shall annually, between the first day of July and the thirtieth day of September of each year, file with the assessor of the county in which such kennel is located, kept or maintained, an application for the registration of such kennel for the fiscal year. ~~Such~~ The application shall state the location of the kennel, the name and address of the person actually in charge of and supervising it, and the name and address of the owner of the kennel, or if an owner of twenty or more adult dogs or cats the name and address of that person. Upon the filing of ~~such~~ the application, together with the payment to the assessor of a fee of ten dollars the assessor shall issue a certificate of registration for ~~such~~ a kennel. The registration of a kennel, as herein provided, shall entitle the registrant to register and receive certificates and tags for not more than five dogs without the payment of a separate head tax on ~~such~~ the dogs. The head tax provided for in section two of this article shall, on ~~such~~ the five or less dogs, be included in and charged against the kennel registration fee herein provided.

Every person upon becoming the owner or operator of a kennel of dogs as herein described after the thirtieth day of September of any year shall, within three days after becoming such owner or operator, register such kennel for the remainder of the current fiscal year in the manner, and upon the payment of the registration fee, herein provided. Any owner of twenty or more adult dogs or cats on the effective date of the enactment of this amendment to this section, shall, within thirty days after the effective date, register for the remainder of the current fiscal year in the manner, and upon the payment of the registration fee, herein provided.

All certificates of registration issued pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be issued for the fiscal year, and shall be valid from the date on which issued until the thirtieth day of June of that fiscal year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require registration as a kennel by persons who maintain twenty or more adult dogs or cats.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

