

# HOUSE BILL No. 1220

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 15-20-5.5.

**Synopsis:** Prohibition on declawing cats. Prohibits a person from declawing cats in Indiana.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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**Miller K**

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January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

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Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1220

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning agriculture and animals.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1       SECTION 1. IC 15-20-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]:  
4       **Chapter 5.5. Cat Declawing**  
5       **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "cat" means an animal of the**  
6 **species *Felis catus*.**  
7       **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "declawing" means an**  
8 **onychectomy or any other surgical procedure to:**  
9           (1) amputate; or  
10          (2) modify;  
11 **a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws.**  
12       **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "tendonectomy" means a**  
13 **procedure in which the tendons to a cat's:**  
14           (1) limbs;  
15           (2) paws; or  
16           (3) toes;  
17 **are cut or modified so that the normal functioning of the claws is**



1 impaired.

2       **Sec. 4. (a)** As used in this chapter, "therapeutic purpose" means  
3 a medically necessary procedure to address an existing or  
4 recurring infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in a  
5 cat's:

6           (1) claws;

7           (2) nail bed; or

8           (3) toe bone;

9 that jeopardizes the cat's health.

10       **(b)** The term does not include a procedure performed for a  
11 cosmetic or aesthetic purpose or to make the cat more convenient  
12 to keep or handle.

13       **Sec. 5. (a)** A person shall not perform:

14           (1) surgical claw removal;

15           (2) declawing; or

16           (3) a tendonectomy;

17 on a cat or otherwise alter a cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent or  
18 impair the normal function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws.

19       **(b)** This section does not apply to a procedure performed solely  
20 for a therapeutic purpose.

21       **(c)** A person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty  
22 of:

23           (1) five hundred dollars (\$500) for the first violation;

24           (2) one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the second violation; and

25           (3) two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the third  
26 and any subsequent violation.

27       **(d)** Civil penalties collected under this section must be deposited  
28 in the state general fund.

