

HOUSE BILL No. 1220

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.

Miller K

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



Introduced

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

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.**

