
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 506 (Bennett) - Pets: sales of dogs, cats, and rabbits

Version: July 10, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 9 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 506 requires a person, pet dealer, or business that sells a dog, cat, or rabbit to a purchaser in California to provide a written notice to the purchaser containing specified information about the animal, and prohibits a person, pet dealer, or business from requiring a nonrefundable deposit for the purchase of an animal.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant workload cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate any civil cases filed as a result of this bill (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).
- The Department of Justice does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

Background: Generally, California regulates the sale of animals through the Polanco-Lockyer Pet Breeder Warranty Act (Warranty Act) and the Lockyer-Polanco-Farr Pet Protection Act (Protection Act). The Warranty Act is applicable to California breeders and the Protection Act applies to retail sales in stores. California's breeder and pet retail sales laws are intended to ensure the consumer has recourse should any problems arise with respect to the health of the animal after the animal is purchased. The Protection Act also includes specific requirements to ensure consumers have information about the pet's origins and the health and safety of the animals prior to purchase and while in the care of the pet retailer.

Proposed Law:

- Requires a person, pet dealer, or business that sells a dog, cat, or rabbit to a purchaser in California to provide a written notice to the purchaser that states all of the following:
 - Original source of the dog, cat or rabbit, as specified.
 - A record of inoculations and worming treatments administered, including the date of administration.
 - A record of any veterinarian treatment or medication received by the animal while in the possession of the person, pet dealer, or business at the time of sale.
- Provides that a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2026 to transfer ownership of a dog, cat, or rabbit to a purchaser located in California is void as against public policy if the contract includes or requires a nonrefundable deposit.

- If money is exchanged pursuant to a contract void under the provisions of this bill, requires the seller to refund the purchaser within 30 days of receiving notice that the contract is void without expectation of return of the pet.
- Prohibits a person, pet dealer, or business from offering a contract that contains a term in violation of these provisions.
 - Authorizes a person, pet dealer, or business that offers a contract that contains a term that violates these provisions to be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction for the recovery of money exchanged pursuant to that contract, injunctive relief, and other remedies the court deems appropriate.
- Authorizes a purchaser affected by a violation of these provisions to bring a civil action against the person, pet dealer, or business who committed the violation.
- Authorizes the Attorney General, a county counsel, a district attorney, a city attorney, or a city prosecutor to enforce these provisions in an action brought in the name of the people of the State of California in any court of competent jurisdiction
 - Provides that this authority provided to a public prosecutor is not an exclusive remedy and does not affect any other relief or remedy provided by law.
- Provides that these provisions do not limit a contract for the transfer of ownership of an animal to or by a governmental agency or the transfer of ownership of a guide, signal, or service dog, as defined in Section 54.1 of the Civil Code.
- Provides that these provisions do not apply to a public animal control agency or shelter.

Related Legislation: AB 519 (Berman, 2025) prohibits pet brokers, as defined, from selling, making available for sale, or adopting out a dog, cat, or rabbit to a consumer in California, subject to specified exemptions. AB 519 is pending on the Senate Floor.

Staff Comments: The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknown factors, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. In 2023–24, over 4.8 million cases were filed statewide in the superior courts. Filings increased over the past year, driven mostly by misdemeanors and infractions, and civil limited cases. The increase in filings from the previous year is greater than 5% for civil limited and unlimited, appellate division appeals, juvenile delinquency, misdemeanors and infractions, and probate. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

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