
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 312
Author: Umberg (D), et al.
Amended: 9/2/25
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/7/25
AYES: Ashby, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello,
Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Strickland

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/29/25
AYES: Hurtado, Alvarado-Gil, Cortese, McNerney
NO VOTE RECORDED: Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/28/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear,
Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez,
Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello,
Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Limón, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 9/8/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Dog importation: health certificates

SOURCE: ASPCA
San Diego Humane Society

DIGEST: This bill revises and recasts the requirements for the submission of health certificates (HC) for dogs imported into California; requires additional information be included on a HC and that it be submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) instead of the county in which the dog is imported into, requires the CDFA to retain the HC for five years; requires the HC to be submitted electronically; and, makes a HC received by the CDFA a public record, as specified.

Assembly Amendments Delete the requirement for the CDFA to develop and maintain a website that contains information on every HC, and requires the CDFA to retain a HC for five years.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a person who brings a dog, or imports dogs into this state for the purpose of resale or change of ownership, to obtain a “HC” or “certificate” that has been completed by a licensed veterinarian and is dated within 10 days prior to the date on which the dog is brought into this state. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 121720(a)(1))
- 2) Requires the “HC” to be provided to a county health department and submitted to the county health department by any means acceptable to the receiving agency, as specified. (HSC § 121720(a)(2))
- 3) Authorizes the agency receiving the HC to use the information on the certificate as it deems appropriate and allows an entity to charge a fee for accepting the certificate as required. (HSC §§ 121720(d), 121722)
- 4) Makes a person who violates the requirement to provide a HC guilty of an infraction, punishable by a \$250 fine, and authorizes enforcement personnel to issue an administrative fine or a correction warning, as specified. (HSC § 121723)

This bill:

- 1) Revises the requirements for a person selling, transporting, or importing a dog into this state for the purpose of resale or change of ownership to obtain and submit a HC, completed by a licensed veterinarian dated no more than 10 days before the date on which the dog is brought into this state.

- 2) Requires the HC to include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
 - a) The date of the examination;
 - b) A statement that the examination revealed no clinical evidence of infectious or communicable disease, including external parasites and fungi, and that, to the best of the veterinarian's knowledge the dog has not recently been exposed to such infectious or communicable disease;
 - c) Any vaccinations, treatments, or tests, and the results;
 - d) A statement that the dog has been properly immunized by a rabies vaccination within 12 months before the date of importation into the state, unless the dog is under three months old or a veterinarian certifies in writing that specified circumstances would endanger the life of the dog;
 - e) The number of dogs in the shipment and a description of each dog, including breed, sex, and age;
 - f) Microchip number for each dog, if microchipped;
 - g) Physical address for both the origin and destination of the dog in the shipment and a post office box, airport, parking lot, or other non-fixed location cannot be used as the physical address, as specified;
 - h) Signature, printed name, physical address, and state license number of the licensed veterinarian who examined the dogs in the shipment;
 - i) Full name and physical address, email address, and telephone number of the consignor and the buyer; and,
 - j) The United States Department of Agriculture license number associated with the breeder of the dog, if applicable.
- 3) Makes the completion of the APHIS Form 7001 to satisfy the requirements in 1) above, if all of the information in a-j) above is included on the APHIS Form 7001; and a different form can be used if accepted by the CDFA.

- 4) Requires the submission of a HC to the department and the buyer to be completed electronically.
- 5) Defines “consignor” to mean a person, business, or organization that ships or sends good to another party for sale or storage, retaining ownership until the goods are paid for.
- 6) Makes a HC received by the CDFA a public record, as specified, and requires the CDFA to make the HCs received available upon request, without a public records request, as specified.
- 7) Requires the CDFA to retain a HC for five years.
- 8) Repeals the existing requirements in the HSC related to HCs.

Background

Animal Importation and Health Certificates. HCs, also referred to as a “certificate of veterinary inspection” (CVI) are required by the majority of states. One of the main purposes of these certificates is to help prevent the spread of animal diseases across state lines. Many state departments of agriculture and other state agencies have created rules and regulations which govern the importation of livestock, companion animals, equines, and other animals. Current law requires a HC be filed with the county where the dog is offered for sale or the county where the individual resides who is acquiring the dog. However, current law does not require a county to create a standardized HC form or require counties to make HCs available on a county website.

As noted by the sponsors of this bill, counties have various procedures for collecting the HCs. In addition, the HCs are not always available to the public, and it’s otherwise generally unclear what the counties are doing with the information from the certificates once received. The varied collection of HC data coupled with the lack of a single point of access for consumers, renders the collection of this data inaccessible and not as useful as intended. This bill seeks to increase consumer access to HCs, by transferring the collection of HCs from individual counties to the CDFA. Current law requires HCs be sent to county jurisdictions where the animal was to be delivered; however, because many out of state filers were not always able to locate or identify the correct county, they would send the HCs to CDFA. Because the CDFA receives CVIs for agriculture animals and livestock, and already had a system in place, it was likely the destination that made

the most sense for people. However, because the CDFA was not the designated agency for the collection of the - HCs, they were not maintaining the records. Although current law provides an enforcement tool for not complying with the HC requirements, the landscape of non-compliance is difficult to assess. To date, the number of fines assessed through each county is unknown.

CDFA. The CDFA is responsible for a number of programs which oversee the important agricultural systems in California, including plant and animal health, animal health and food services, fairs, dairy programs, and measurement standards. The animal health branch, under the CDFA is the State's organized, professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and California's economy from catastrophic animal diseases, disasters that impact animals, and other health or agricultural problems. This bill will require the CDFA to retain a HC for five years.

This bill is one of several bills this legislative year intended to address issues raised in a September 12, 2024, Los Angeles Times article which highlighted the underground puppy and dog market in California. The article noted that often time buyers purchase animals online from what they believe to be a breeder in California, when in reality the animal is from another state where puppy mills are rampant, and offered for sale through a California broker with little knowledge from the prospective buyer, that the dog was not actually bred in California. There were instances in the article which noted that some of those animals were sick or otherwise unhealthy.

This bill aims to enhance transparency on HCs by enhancing the information required for a HC, including a physical address (that is not a parking lot or similar place), an email address, along with information about the seller and the buyer of the dog. This information may help consumers research the source of a dog-i.e. does the dog have a HC on file, which would indicate the dog was not born in California. Additionally, a consumer should be able find information about past dog sales from the person they are seeking to purchase a dog from.

Comments

The American Kennel Club, Inc. supports this bill if it is amended and notes, “The AKC supports making public information related to the health of animals along with the state in which the animal is being transported from. This can give the public assurance that the animals being brought into the state are healthy along with identifying the types of animals that are being brought into the state and where they come from. However, listing home addresses of buyers and sellers

creates privacy concerns—including the risk of malicious actors being able to target specific people with easily accessible data.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, “CDFA estimates costs of \$1.54 million in the first year, \$1.17 million in the second year, and \$322,000 annually thereafter to develop, launch, and maintain a searchable website (General Fund). CDFA notes significant costs associated with the need for optical character recognition tools to process HC data, which are not submitted in a standardized format.”

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/8/25)

ASPCA (co-source)

San Diego Humane Society (co-source)

Honorable Rob Bonta, Attorney General, State of California

Animal Legal Defense Fund

California Animal Welfare Association

Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley

Humane World for Animals

Inland Valley Humane Society & S.P.C.A.

Michelson Center for Public Policy

Pet Advocacy Network

Pets Lifeline

San Francisco SPCA

Social Compassion in Legislation

Valley Humane Society

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note generally that this bill will increase consumer protection and allow greater transparency around those puppies brought into California.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 9/8/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Fariás, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González,

Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra,
Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega,
Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos,
Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio,
Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa,
Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Flora, Nguyen

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
9/8/25 19:46:31

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