

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-6513.2, relating to rental or*  
3 *leasing of dog or cat prohibited; civil penalty.*

4 [S 742]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 3.2-6513.2 as follows:**8 **§ 3.2-6513.2. Rental or lease of dog or cat prohibited; civil penalty.**9 *A. As used in this section, "covered person" means any pet shop, commercial dog breeder, pet*  
10 *dealer, firm, or other pet selling business.*11 *B. The rental or leasing of a dog or cat to a Virginia consumer, including by a purported sale of the*  
12 *animal in such a manner as to vest less than full equity in the consumer at the time of the purported*  
13 *sale, is prohibited.*14 *C. No covered person shall offer in Virginia an agreement for the transfer or sale of a dog or cat to*  
15 *the consumer in which the animal is subject to repossession in any manner upon default of the*  
16 *agreement by the consumer.*17 *D. No financial institution, as defined in § 6.2-100, shall offer in Virginia a loan or financing*  
18 *agreement for the rental, lease, or sale of a dog or cat where the animal is subject to repossession upon*  
19 *default under the terms of the financing agreement.*20 *E. Any violation of this section shall also constitute a prohibited practice under § 59.1-200 and shall*  
21 *be subject to the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.).*  
22 *In addition, any covered person that violates any provision of this section may have its business license,*  
23 *retail license, or local pet shop permit issued pursuant to § 3.2-6537 suspended or revoked after a*  
24 *hearing by the issuing authority. The court may also suspend or revoke the retail license of any business*  
25 *found to be in violation of this section.*26 *F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the temporary rental or lease of any of the*  
27 *following animals, so long as the animal is used in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local*  
28 *animal protection laws:*29 *1. A purebred dog that is rented for the express purpose of breeding pursuant to a written lease that*  
30 *sets out a specific time period, contains a firm end date, and is recorded with a national purebred dog*  
31 *registry;*32 *2. A dog or cat that is used in spectator events, shows, exhibitions, motion pictures, or other*  
33 *entertainment, including animal exhibitions, racing events, field trials, polo matches, rodeo events, or*  
34 *any audiovisual media; or*35 *3. A service dog as defined in § 51.5-40.1, guide or leader dog as defined in § 3.2-6588, security*  
36 *dog, police or law-enforcement dog, military working dog, or certified facility dog as defined in*  
37 *§ 18.2-67.9:1.*38 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2021.**