

HOUSE BILL NO. 4883

June 28, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Wilson, Rheingans, Andrews, Churches, Tsernoglou, Price, Edwards, McKinney and Byrnes and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to prohibit certain medical procedures for declawing a cat; and to prescribe civil sanctions.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Cat" means a domestic cat of the species *Felis catus* or a
3 hybrid of that species. Cat includes, but is not limited to, a
4 savannah cat, Serengeti cat, Maine coon, Bengal cat, or chausie.

5 (b) "Therapeutic purpose" means a physical medical condition
6 of a cat, including, but not limited to, an existing or recurring
7 illness, infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the

1 claw of a cat that compromises the cat's health. Therapeutic
2 purpose does not include a cosmetic or aesthetic reason or reason
3 of convenience in keeping or handling a cat.

4 Sec. 3. (1) An individual shall not perform by any means an
5 onychectomy, a partial or complete phalangectomy, or tendonectomy
6 procedure, or any other surgical procedure that prevents normal
7 functioning of the claws, toes, or paws, on a cat, unless the
8 procedure is necessary to address a therapeutic purpose.

9 (2) An individual who violates this section is responsible for
10 a civil fine as follows:

11 (a) For a first violation, a civil fine of not more than
12 \$2,500.00.

13 (b) For a second or subsequent violation, a civil fine of not
14 more than \$5,000.00.

15 (3) A violation of this section may be prosecuted by the
16 prosecutor of the county in which the violation occurred, or by the
17 attorney general.