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

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 1. As used in this act:

(a) "Cat" means a domestic cat of the species Felis catus or a hybrid of that species. Cat includes, but is not limited to, a savannah cat, serengeti cat, Maine coon, bengal cat, or chausie.

(b) "Therapeutic purpose" means the necessity to address a physical medical condition of a cat, including, but not limited to, an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury, or
abnormal condition in the claw of a cat that compromises the cat's health. Therapeutic purpose does not include cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling a cat.

Sec. 2. (1) An individual shall not perform by any means an onychectomy, a partial or complete phalanectomy, or a tendonectomy procedure, or any other surgical procedure that prevents normal functioning of the claws, on a cat in this state, unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

(2) An individual who violates this section is responsible for a civil fine of not more than $1,000.00. A violation of this section may be prosecuted by the prosecutor of the county in which the violation occurred, or by the attorney general.