

REMOVE REFERENCES TO DOG TATTOO REGISTRY

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House Bill 5588 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. TC Clements

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 5589 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Ranjeev Puri

Committee: Judiciary
Complete to 2-23-22

SUMMARY:

House Bills 5588 and 5589 would amend two different acts to remove obsolete references to provisions of a third act that were repealed in 2016. The repealed provisions related to the tattooing of dogs for identification and registration purposes.

2016 PA 253 repealed provisions of 1939 PA 309 that had authorized the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to issue and record identification numbers for the purpose of tattooing dogs for registration and identification. However, references in other acts to the repealed provisions were not eliminated at the same time.

House Bill 5588 would amend the Dog Law, which now requires certain local government officials, when issuing a dog license, to provide the owner with information on the availability of microchip implantation and registration for dogs and the now obsolete tattoo identification registry maintained by MDARD. The bill would remove the reference to the obsolete registry.

MCL 287.274a

House Bill 5589 would amend 1988 PA 426, known as the dangerous animal act, which now allows a district court magistrate, district court, or municipal court to require the owner of a dog found to be a dangerous animal under some circumstances to be permanently tattooed with an identification number assigned by MDARD. The bill would remove this option.

MCL 287.322

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

In years past, MDARD operated a program in which dog owners could register their dogs and have an identifying number tattooed on the dog's leg. The program was statutorily eliminated by 2016 PA 253 due to the availability of microchip technology and animal cruelty concerns. However, because references to the obsolete program remain in two other laws, sometimes people don't realize that the program no longer exists. This is particularly problematic when a court orders a dog deemed to be a dangerous animal to be tattooed under the defunct program. Eliminating the remaining references to the old program will keep dog owners from being ordered by a court to do something they can't, and will also ensure that information provided to dog owners by local governments regarding options for identifying their pet if it should run off without its collar and ID tags is accurate and up-to-date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bills 5588 and 5589 would eliminate references to the identification program that was repealed by 2016 PA 253. In effect, the bills are technical “clean-up” bills and have no direct fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) testified in support of the bill. (1-25-22)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.