



# HOUSE BILL 226: End Predatory Pet Leasing.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Commerce. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 21, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Harris, Setzer	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Amy Darden
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 226 would do the following:*

- *Create a new Article in Chapter 19A to prohibit certain leases, offers to lease, sales, or offers to sell any living cat or dog for personal, family, or household use.*
- *Make any violation a Class 2 misdemeanor.*
- *Make any violation an unfair and deceptive trade practice.*
- *Make any provision of a contract or agreement that violates this new Article null and void.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 226 would create a new Article 7 in Chapter 19A (Protection of Animals). This Article would prohibit certain leases, offers to lease, sales, and offers to sell any living cat or dog for personal, family, or household use if the agreement uses the living cat or dog as security, which may be repossessed if payments are not made (predatory pet leasing).

The following would be exceptions to the prohibition on predatory pet leasing:

- Agreements to lease a purebred dog for the purpose of breeding.
- Agreements to use a dog or cat in spectator events or entertainment, such as shows, exhibitions, movies, or racing events.
- Agreements relating to training or use of a service dog.
- Agreements relating to training or use of a security, law enforcement, or military working dog.

Any violation of this Article would be:

- A Class 2 misdemeanor.
- An unfair and deceptive trade practice.

Any provision in a contract or agreement that constitutes predatory pet leasing under this Article would be null and void.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** G.S. 19A-80(d) becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to contracts or other agreements entered into on or after that date. The remainder of this bill becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

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