



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

**American Kennel Club Opposes House Bill 930 as currently written;
Supports amendment to remove “large commercial breeder” definition
and improve standards for ALL dogs**

The American Kennel Club (AKC) strongly believes that *all* dogs should be treated in a safe and humane manner. It is for this reason that we developed our *Care and Conditions of Dogs* Policy, which we believe is in the best interest of all dogs.

The AKC appreciates that proponents of House Bill 930 recognize the benefits of our performance-based standards for the care and conditions of dogs and have incorporated many of these provisions into the bill. However, we have several concerns with the bill as currently written:

- **Problematic definition of “large commercial dog breeder”** – HB 930 erroneously defines a “large commercial dog breeder” as someone who owns or maintains 10 or more intact female dogs. If the purpose is to regulate “commercial breeders”, then this definition should be based on commerce, not on an individual’s ownership of private property and how it could potentially be used.
- **Basic standards of care should apply to ALL dogs** – *This bill only applies standards of care to those who meet this misleading definition of “large commercial dog breeder”.* The AKC strongly believes that ALL dogs deserve to be treated in a humane manner – not just those owned by so-called “commercial breeders”. If the purpose of this measure is truly to improve the wellbeing of dogs, then it doesn’t make sense to limit these standards of care to only those who own 10 or more intact female dogs.
- **Current bill language may actually weaken the ability to enforce current cruelty laws rather than strengthen them** – Law enforcement and prosecutors would be obligated to determine and prove that someone meets the vague definition of “large commercial breeder” before they could move forward.

The AKC respectfully asks that you oppose House Bill 930 as currently written or amend this bill to remove the definition of “large commercial dog breeder” so that reasonable care standards can apply to all dogs without creating misleading, unnecessary and arbitrary regulations.