



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

AKC Opposes House Bill 124 and Senate Bill 95 as Introduced

The American Kennel Club (AKC[®]) believes dog owners bear a special responsibility to provide proper care and humane treatment to their canine companions at all times. We also believe, however, that any bill introduced that seeks to protect the health and welfare of dogs should not infringe on the rights of breeders who take their responsibilities seriously.

Reasons for Opposition:

The AKC is concerned with many provisions within House Bill 124 and its companion Senate Bill 95 as introduced, including, but not limited to:

- **Broad definition of “Regulated Dog Intermediary”.** Anyone who sells, exchanges, donates, or gives away at least nine dogs a year or sells or gives one dog to a pet store is subject to a \$500 annual license fee. This definition also does not exclude breeders, and it is unclear if those who acquire a dog breeding kennel license must also obtain a regulated dog intermediary license.
- **Arbitrary, unenforceable kennel requirements and standards of care.** The detailed requirements outlined in these bills are difficult to enforce and do not account for the varying needs of different dog breeds or the enormous costs to responsible breeders.
- **Little breeder representation within Kennel Control Authority Board.** Besides one member “in good standing of a national breed parent club of the American Kennel Club”, breeders have no representation on the board that will set the standards of care, oversee licensing, and conduct inspections.
- **Extensive cost to Ohio taxpayers.** The bills create a new board to oversee implementation and inspections, which the Ohio Legislative Service Commission reports will cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to maintain.

The American Kennel Club urges the Ohio General Assembly to oppose House Bill 124 and Senate Bill 95 as introduced, which include many arbitrary, costly, and unenforceable provisions that punish responsible breeders and Ohio taxpayers.