
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1831

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By House Local Government & Housing (originally sponsored by Representatives Short, Williams, Johnson, Campbell, Blake, Warnick, McCune, Kretz, and Kristiansen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to the rights of pet and livestock owners residing
2 in unincorporated areas subject to annexation by a city or town; adding
3 a new section to chapter 35.10 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
4 35A.14 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.10 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) Notwithstanding any city or town ordinance in effect at the
9 time of an annexation, or thereafter, pertaining to pet or livestock
10 ownership, a property owner residing in the unincorporated area of a
11 rural county that is annexed retains the right to own and possess a pet
12 or pets or livestock lawfully in his or her possession at the time of
13 the annexation, subject to the following conditions:

14 (a) After the annexation the possession of the pet or pets or
15 livestock continues to be in accordance with the pertinent statutes and
16 county ordinances in effect at the time of annexation;

17 (b) The right of a property owner to possess a specific type of pet
18 under this section continues only as long as the pet owned at the time
19 of the annexation remains alive; and

1 (c) The possession of the pet or pets or livestock does not violate
2 the provisions of chapter 16.30 RCW, regarding potentially dangerous
3 wild animals.

4 (2) The right to the possession of livestock under subsection (1)
5 of this section continues for so long as the original property owner or
6 his or her immediate family members retain ownership of the property.
7 If the property owner is a business entity, the right to retain
8 possession of livestock under subsection (1) of this section continues
9 for so long as the property remains under the ownership of the same
10 entity.

11 (3) For the purposes of this section, "pet" means a domesticated or
12 tamed animal that is not owned for a commercial, breeding, or business
13 purpose and which is not otherwise prohibited under chapter 16.30 RCW.

14 (4) For the purposes of this section, "rural county" means a county
15 with a population of fewer than one hundred persons per square mile as
16 determined by the office of financial management.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.14 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Notwithstanding any city or town ordinance in effect at the
20 time of an annexation, or thereafter, pertaining to pet or livestock
21 ownership, a property owner residing in the unincorporated area of a
22 rural county that is annexed retains the right to own and possess a pet
23 or pets or livestock lawfully in his or her possession at the time of
24 the annexation, subject to the following conditions:

25 (a) After the annexation the possession of the pet or pets or
26 livestock continues to be in accordance with the pertinent statutes and
27 county ordinances in effect at the time of annexation;

28 (b) The right of a property owner to possess a specific type of pet
29 under this section continues only as long as the pet owned at the time
30 of the annexation remains alive; and

31 (c) The possession of the pet or pets or livestock does not violate
32 the provisions of chapter 16.30 RCW, regarding potentially dangerous
33 wild animals.

34 (2) The right to the possession of livestock under subsection (1)
35 of this section continues for so long as the original property owner or
36 his or her immediate family members retain ownership of the property.
37 If the property owner is a business entity, the right to retain

1 possession of livestock under subsection (1) of this section continues
2 for so long as the property remains under the ownership of the same
3 entity.

4 (3) For the purposes of this section, "pet" means a domesticated or
5 tamed animal that is not owned for a commercial, breeding, or business
6 purpose and which is not otherwise prohibited under chapter 16.30 RCW.

7 (4) For the purposes of this section, "rural county" means a county
8 with a population of fewer than one hundred persons per square mile as
9 determined by the office of financial management.

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