

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

**H.B. 553**  
**Apr 2, 2015**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE DRH30204-LL-145 (03/17)

Short Title: Ordinances Regulating Animals. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McGrady, Whitmire, Langdon, and Dixon (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE AUTHORITY OF CITIES AND COUNTIES TO ADOPT  
3 ORDINANCES REGARDING ANIMALS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 153A-121 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 "(d) This section does not authorize a county to establish standards of care for farm  
7 animals, including, but not limited to, the construction, repair, or improvement of farm animal  
8 shelter or housing, restrictions on the types of feed or medicines that may be administered to  
9 farm animals, and exercise and social interaction requirements. For purposes of this section, the  
10 term "farm animals" includes the following domesticated animals: cattle, oxen, bison, sheep,  
11 swine, goats, horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, hinnies, llamas, alpacas, lagomorphs, ratites, and  
12 poultry."

13 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 153A-127 reads as rewritten:

14 "**§ 153A-127. Abuse of animals.**

15 A county may by ordinance define and prohibit the abuse of animals. This section does not  
16 authorize a county to establish standards of care for farm animals, as defined in  
17 G.S. 153A-121(d), including, but not limited to, the construction, repair, or improvement of  
18 farm animal shelter or housing, restrictions on the types of feed or medicines that may be  
19 administered to farm animals, and exercise and social interaction requirements."

20 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 153A-131 reads as rewritten:

21 "**§ 153A-131. Possession or harboring of dangerous animals.**

22 A county may by ordinance regulate, restrict, or prohibit the possession or harboring of  
23 animals ~~which~~that are dangerous to persons or property. No such ordinance shall have the  
24 effect of permitting any activity or condition with respect to a wild animal which is prohibited  
25 or more severely restricted by regulations of the Wildlife Resources Commission. This section  
26 does not authorize a county to establish standards of care for farm animals, as defined in  
27 G.S. 153A-121(d), including, but not limited to, the construction, repair, or improvement of  
28 farm animal shelter or housing, restrictions on the types of feed or medicines that may be  
29 administered to farm animals, and exercise and social interaction requirements."

30 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 160A-174 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 "(d) This section does not authorize a city to establish standards of care for farm animals,  
32 including, but not limited to, the construction, repair, or improvement of farm animal shelter or  
33 housing, restrictions on the types of feed or medicines that may be administered to farm  
34 animals, and exercise and social interaction requirements. For purposes of this section, the term  
35 "farm animals" includes the following domesticated animals: cattle, oxen, bison, sheep, swine,



1 goats, horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, hinnies, llamas, alpacas, lagomorphs, ratites, and  
2 poultry."

3       **SECTION 5.** G.S.160A-182 reads as rewritten:

4       "**§ 160A-182. Abuse of animals.**

5       A city may by ordinance define and prohibit the abuse of animals. This section does not  
6 authorize a city to establish standards of care for farm animals, as defined in G.S. 160A-174(d),  
7 including, but not limited to, the construction, repair, or improvement of farm animal shelter or  
8 housing, restrictions on the types of feed or medicines that may be administered to farm  
9 animals, and exercise and social interaction requirements."

10       **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.