

**House File 2674 - Reprinted**

HOUSE FILE 2674  
BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2298)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 12, 2026)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for the regulation of commercial  
2 establishments possessing or controlling nonagricultural  
3 animals, providing penalties, and making penalties  
4 applicable.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 162.2, subsection 7, Code 2026, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 162.2, subsections 8 and 9, Code 2026, are  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 8. a. "*Commercial breeder*" means a person, engaged in the  
6 business of breeding dogs or cats, who sells, exchanges, or  
7 leases dogs or cats in return for consideration, or who offers  
8 to do so, whether or not the animals are raised, trained,  
9 groomed, or boarded by the person. A

10 b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", "commercial breeder"  
11 does not mean a person who owns or harbors three six or fewer  
12 breeding males or females is not a commercial breeder females,  
13 age twelve months or older.

14 9. "*Commercial establishment*" or "*establishment*" means an  
15 animal shelter, ~~boarding kennel~~, commercial breeder, commercial  
16 kennel, dealer, pet shop, pound, public auction, or research  
17 facility.

18 Sec. 3. Section 162.2, subsection 26, paragraph a, Code  
19 2026, is amended to read as follows:

20 a. A ~~boarding kennel~~, commercial kennel, or pet shop to whom  
21 a state license is issued by the department pursuant to section  
22 162.2A.

23 Sec. 4. Section 162.2A, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
24 2026, is amended to read as follows:

25 b. A state license for a ~~boarding kennel~~, commercial kennel,  
26 or pet shop.

27 Sec. 5. Section 162.4A, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
28 follows:

29 **162.4A Operation of a research facility — certificate of**  
30 **registration.**

31 A research facility shall only operate pursuant to a  
32 certificate of registration issued by the department as  
33 provided in [section 162.2A](#). The research facility shall  
34 maintain records as required by the department in order for the  
35 department to ensure the research facility's compliance with

1 the provisions of [this chapter](#). A research facility shall not  
2 purchase a dog or cat from a commercial establishment that does  
3 not have a valid authorization issued or renewed under this  
4 chapter ~~or a similar authorization issued or renewed by another~~  
5 state.

6 Sec. 6. Section 162.5, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 **162.5 Operation of a pet shop — state license.**

9 A pet shop shall only operate pursuant to a state license  
10 issued or renewed by the department pursuant to section  
11 162.2A. The pet shop shall maintain records as required by the  
12 department in order for the department to ensure the pet shop's  
13 compliance with the provisions of [this chapter](#). A pet shop  
14 shall not purchase a dog or cat from a commercial establishment  
15 that does not have a valid authorization issued or renewed  
16 under [this chapter](#) ~~or a similar authorization issued or renewed~~  
17 ~~by another state~~.

18 Sec. 7. Section 162.6, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 **162.6 Operation of a commercial kennel — state license.**

21 A commercial kennel shall only operate pursuant to a state  
22 license issued or renewed by the department as provided in  
23 section 162.2A. A commercial kennel shall maintain records  
24 as required by the department in order for the department to  
25 ensure the commercial kennel's compliance with the provisions  
26 of [this chapter](#). A commercial kennel shall not purchase a dog  
27 or cat from a commercial establishment that does not have a  
28 valid authorization issued or renewed under [this chapter](#) ~~or a~~  
29 ~~similar authorization issued or renewed by another state~~.

30 Sec. 8. Section 162.7, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
31 follows:

32 **162.7 Operation of a dealer — state license or permit.**

33 A dealer shall only operate pursuant to a state license,  
34 or a permit, issued or renewed by the department as provided  
35 in [section 162.2A](#). A dealer who is a state licensee shall

1 maintain records as required by the department in order for the  
2 department to ensure compliance with the provisions of this  
3 chapter. A dealer who is a permittee may but is not required  
4 to maintain records. A dealer shall not purchase a dog or cat  
5 from a commercial establishment that does not have a valid  
6 authorization issued or renewed under **this chapter** ~~or a similar~~  
7 ~~authorization issued or renewed by another state.~~

8 Sec. 9. Section 162.8, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 **162.8 Operation of a commercial breeder — state license or**  
11 **permit.**

12 A commercial breeder shall only operate pursuant to a state  
13 license, or a permit, issued or renewed by the department  
14 as provided in **section 162.2A**. A commercial breeder who is  
15 a state licensee shall maintain records as required by the  
16 department in order for the department to ensure the commercial  
17 breeder's compliance with the provisions of **this chapter**. A  
18 commercial breeder who is a permittee may but is not required  
19 to maintain records. A commercial breeder shall not purchase a  
20 dog or cat from a commercial establishment that does not have a  
21 valid authorization issued or renewed under **this chapter** ~~or a~~  
22 ~~similar authorization issued or renewed by another state.~~

23 Sec. 10. Section 162.9A, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **162.9A Operation of a public auction — state license or**  
26 **permit.**

27 A public auction shall only operate pursuant to a state  
28 license, or a permit, issued or renewed by the department as  
29 provided in **section 162.2A**. A public auction ~~which~~ that is  
30 a state licensee shall maintain records as required by the  
31 department in order for the department to ensure the public  
32 auction's compliance with the provisions of **this chapter**.  
33 A public auction ~~which~~ that is a permittee may but is not  
34 required to maintain records. A public auction shall not  
35 purchase a dog or cat from a commercial establishment that does

1 not have a valid authorization issued or renewed under this  
2 chapter ~~or a similar authorization issued or renewed by another~~  
3 state.

4 Sec. 11. Section 162.10B, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 **162.10B Commercial establishments — inspecting state**  
7 **licensees and registrants.**

8 1. The department may inspect the commercial establishment  
9 of a registrant or state licensee by entering onto its  
10 business premises at any time during normal working hours. The  
11 department may inspect records required to be maintained by the  
12 state licensee or registrant as provided in [this chapter](#). If  
13 the owner or person in charge of the commercial establishment  
14 refuses admittance, the department may obtain an administrative  
15 search warrant issued under [section 808.14](#).

16 2. a. The department shall determine the frequency  
17 of inspections of a commercial establishment conducted  
18 pursuant to subsection 1 based upon a risk assessment of  
19 the establishment's compliance with the standard of care  
20 requirement in section 162.10A, subsection 1.

21 b. Paragraph "a" does not limit the department from  
22 conducting an inspection as necessary to ensure a commercial  
23 establishment is complying with the requirements of this  
24 chapter.

25 c. Upon receipt of credible evidence that a commercial  
26 establishment may be in violation of the standard of care  
27 requirement provided in section 162.10A, subsection 1, the  
28 department shall inspect the establishment or initiate an  
29 investigation of the establishment.

30 Sec. 12. Section 162.10C, subsection 2, Code 2026, is  
31 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

32 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. A United States department of agriculture  
33 inspection report indicating that the permittee is breaching  
34 a standard of care required of permittees by section 162.10A.  
35 The department of agriculture and land stewardship shall not

1 enter onto the permittee's premises based on that report two  
2 years after the date that the report was published.

3 Sec. 13. Section 162.10D, Code 2026, is amended by adding  
4 the following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 01. a. The department may suspend or  
6 revoke an authorization issued or renewed to a commercial  
7 establishment under this chapter for a violation of a provision  
8 of this chapter.

9 b. A violation of this chapter includes any of the  
10 following:

11 (1) The refusal of a commercial establishment to allow  
12 the department to conduct an inspection pursuant to a search  
13 warrant.

14 (2) The effort of a person associated with the commercial  
15 establishment to interfere with an inspection.

16 Sec. 14. Section 162.11, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 2. ~~This chapter~~ does not apply to a place or establishment  
19 ~~which~~ that operates under the immediate supervision of a  
20 duly licensed veterinarian as a hospital where animals are  
21 harbored, hospitalized, and cared for incidental to the  
22 treatment, prevention, or alleviation of disease processes  
23 during the routine practice of the profession of veterinary  
24 medicine. However, if animals are accepted by such a place,  
25 establishment, or hospital for boarding or grooming for a  
26 consideration, the place, establishment, or hospital is subject  
27 to the licensing or registration requirements applicable to a  
28 ~~boarding kennel or~~ commercial kennel under ~~this chapter~~ and the  
29 rules adopted by the secretary.

30 Sec. 15. Section 162.12, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
31 follows:

32 **162.12 Denial or revocation of license or registration.**

33 A certificate of registration may be denied to any animal  
34 shelter, pound, or research facility and a state license may  
35 be denied to any public auction, ~~boarding kennel,~~ commercial

1 kennel, pet shop, commercial breeder, or dealer, or an existing  
2 certificate of registration or state license may be revoked by  
3 the secretary if, after public hearing, it is determined that  
4 the housing facilities or primary enclosures are inadequate  
5 under **this chapter** or if the feeding, watering, cleaning,  
6 and housing practices at the pound, animal shelter, public  
7 auction, pet shop, ~~boarding kennel,~~ commercial kennel, or  
8 research facility, or those practices by the commercial breeder  
9 or dealer, are not in compliance with **this chapter** or with  
10 the rules adopted pursuant to **this chapter**. The premises of  
11 each registrant or state licensee shall be open for inspection  
12 during normal business hours.

13 Sec. 16. Section 162.12A, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
14 follows:

15 **162.12A Civil penalties.**

16 1. a. The department shall establish, impose, and assess  
17 civil penalties for violations of **this chapter**.

18 b. A violation of this chapter includes any of the  
19 following:

20 (1) The refusal by a commercial establishment to allow the  
21 department to inspect the commercial establishment as provided  
22 in section 162.10D.

23 (2) The effort of a person associated with the commercial  
24 establishment to interfere with a department's inspection as  
25 provided in section 162.10D.

26 c. The department may by rule establish a schedule of civil  
27 penalties for violations of **this chapter**.

28 d. All civil penalties collected under **this section** shall be  
29 deposited into the general fund of the state.

30 ~~1.~~ 2. a. A commercial establishment that operates pursuant  
31 to an authorization issued or renewed under **this chapter** is  
32 subject to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred  
33 dollars, regardless of the number of animals possessed or  
34 controlled by the commercial establishment, for violating this  
35 chapter. Except as provided in paragraph "b", each day that a

1 violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

2     *b.* This paragraph applies to a commercial establishment  
3 that violates a standard of care involving housing as provided  
4 in [section 162.10A](#). The departmental official who makes  
5 a determination that a violation exists shall provide a  
6 corrective plan to the commercial establishment describing how  
7 the violation will be corrected within a compliance period of  
8 not more than fifteen days from the date of approval by the  
9 official of the corrective plan. The civil penalty shall not  
10 exceed five hundred dollars for the first day of the violation.  
11 After that day, the department shall not impose a civil penalty  
12 for the violation during the compliance period. The department  
13 shall not impose an additional civil penalty, unless the  
14 commercial establishment fails to correct the violation by the  
15 end of the compliance period. If the commercial establishment  
16 fails to correct the violation by the end of the compliance  
17 period, each day that the violation continues shall be deemed a  
18 separate offense.

19     ~~2.~~ 3. A commercial establishment that does not operate  
20 pursuant to an authorization issued or renewed under this  
21 chapter is subject to a civil penalty of not more than one  
22 thousand dollars, regardless of the number of animals possessed  
23 or controlled by the commercial establishment, for violating  
24 this chapter. Each day that a violation continues shall be  
25 deemed a separate offense.

26     Sec. 17. Section 162.19, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28     **162.19 Abandoned animals destroyed.**

29     1. Whenever any animal is left with a veterinarian, ~~boarding~~  
30 ~~kennel~~ or commercial kennel pursuant to a written agreement and  
31 the owner does not claim the animal by the agreed date, the  
32 animal shall be deemed abandoned, and a notice of abandonment  
33 and its consequences shall be sent within seven days by  
34 certified mail to the last known address of the owner. For  
35 fourteen days after mailing of the notice the owner shall have

1 the right to reclaim the animal upon payment of all reasonable  
2 charges, and after the fourteen days the owner shall be deemed  
3 to have waived all rights to the abandoned animal. If despite  
4 diligent effort an owner cannot be found for the abandoned  
5 animal within another seven days, the veterinarian,~~boarding~~  
6 ~~kennel~~, or commercial kennel may humanely destroy the abandoned  
7 animal.

8 2. Each veterinarian,~~boarding kennel~~ or commercial kennel  
9 shall warn its patrons of the provisions of [this section](#) by a  
10 conspicuously posted notice or by conspicuous type in a written  
11 receipt.

12 Sec. 18. Section 717A.1, subsection 5, paragraph g, Code  
13 2026, is amended by striking the paragraph.

14 Sec. 19. REPEAL. Section 162.5A, Code 2026, is repealed.