

By: Gerdes

H.B. No. 4495

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of certain counties to order the microchipping of dogs; providing a civil penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 822, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

Sec. 822.151. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to a county with a population of less than 50,000 that is:

(1) located in a metropolitan statistical area as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget with a population of more than two million; and

(2) adjacent to another metropolitan statistical area as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget with a population of more than two million.

Sec. 822.152. ORDER TO MICROCHIP. (a) The commissioners court of a county may adopt an order requiring each dog regularly located in the county that is owned by a county resident to be microchipped. The order must specify:

(1) the time the owner has to microchip the dog after becoming the owner;

(2) any exemption from the requirement to microchip, including any exemption for a dog temporarily located in the county or for a medical reason; and

1 (3) any other matters the commissioners court finds
2 appropriate.

3 (b) If another political subdivision located in the county
4 adopts a microchipping requirement with more stringent standards
5 than the county standards, the political subdivision's standards
6 control within the political subdivision.

7 Sec. 822.153. CIVIL PENALTY. (a) A person who violates an
8 order adopted under this subchapter is liable for a civil penalty of
9 not more than \$200.

10 (b) The county attorney of the county in which the violation
11 occurs may sue to collect a civil penalty.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.