

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 4816

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prohibited requirement of a rabies report on or quarantine of certain domesticated dogs, cats, and ferrets.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 826, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 826.0425 to read as follows:

Sec. 826.0425. PROHIBITED REQUIREMENT OF CERTAIN REPORTS OR QUARANTINE. The executive commissioner may not adopt a rule to require:

(1) a person to report an incident involving an animal bite or scratch if:

(A) the bite or scratch was from a domesticated dog, cat, or ferret; and

(B) the person does not reasonably foresee the dog, cat, or ferret as capable of transmitting rabies and does not suspect the dog, cat, or ferret is rabid; or

(2) the owner of a domesticated dog, cat, or ferret to submit the animal to quarantine under this chapter if the owner lacks probable cause to believe the animal is rabid or may have been exposed to rabies.

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