88R3333 DIO-D

By:  Goodwin H.B. No. 274

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing and regulation of dog and cat breeders; expanding the applicability of an occupational license.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 802.002(8), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(8)  "Dog or cat breeder" means a person who possesses five [~~11~~] or more adult intact female animals and is engaged in the business of breeding those animals for direct or indirect sale or for exchange in return for consideration [~~and who sells or exchanges, or offers to sell or exchange, not fewer than 20 animals in a calendar year~~].

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall prescribe the forms and procedures necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

SECTION 3.  Notwithstanding Section 802.002(8), Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, a dog or cat breeder who possesses five or more but fewer than 11 adult intact female animals and is engaged in the business of breeding those animals for direct or indirect sale or for exchange in return for consideration is not required to hold a license under Chapter 802, Occupations Code, to act as a dog or cat breeder before January 1, 2024.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.