

LSC 129 0424-3

129th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2011-2012

Sub. S. B. No. 130

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A BILL

To amend sections 955.02, 955.10, 955.12, 955.20, 1  
955.26, and 1901.183 and to enact sections 956.01 2  
to 956.21, 956.98, and 956.99 of the Revised Code 3  
to regulate certain dog breeding kennels, dog 4  
retailers, and animal rescues for dogs. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

**Section 1.** That sections 955.02, 955.10, 955.12, 955.20, 6  
955.26, and 1901.183 be amended and sections 956.01, 956.02, 7  
956.03, 956.04, 956.05, 956.06, 956.07, 956.08, 956.09, 956.10, 8  
956.11, 956.12, 956.13, 956.14, 956.15, 956.16, 956.17, 956.18, 9  
956.19, 956.20, 956.21, 956.98, and 956.99 of the Revised Code be 10  
enacted to read as follows: 11

**Sec. 955.02.** ~~A As used in this chapter, "dog kennel" or 12  
"kennel owner is a person, partnership, firm, company, or 13  
corporation professionally engaged in the business" means an 14  
establishment that keeps, houses, and maintains adult dogs, as 15  
defined in section 956.01 of the Revised Code, for the purpose of 16  
breeding the dogs for hunting or for a fee or other consideration 17  
received through a sale, exchange, or lease and that is not a high 18  
volume breeder licensed under Chapter 956. of the Revised Code. 19~~

**Sec. 955.10.** No owner of a dog, except a dog constantly 20  
confined to a ~~registered dog kennel~~ registered under this chapter 21

or one licensed under Chapter 956. of the Revised Code, shall fail 22  
to require the dog to wear, at all times, a valid tag issued in 23  
connection with a certificate of registration. A ~~dog's failure~~ dog 24  
found not wearing at any time ~~to wear~~ a valid tag shall be 25  
prima-facie evidence of lack of registration and shall subject any 26  
dog found not wearing such a tag to impounding, sale, or 27  
destruction. 28

**Sec. 955.12.** The board of county commissioners shall appoint 29  
or employ a county dog warden and deputies in such number, for 30  
such periods of time, and at such compensation as the board 31  
considers necessary to enforce sections 955.01 to 955.27, 955.29 32  
to 955.38, and 955.50 to 955.53 of the Revised Code. 33

The warden and deputies shall give bond in a sum not less 34  
than five hundred dollars and not more than two thousand dollars, 35  
as set by the board, conditioned for the faithful performance of 36  
their duties. The bond or bonds may, in the discretion of the 37  
board, be individual or blanket bonds. The bonds shall be filed 38  
with the county auditor of their respective counties. 39

The warden and deputies shall make a record of all dogs 40  
owned, kept, and harbored in their respective counties. They shall 41  
patrol their respective counties and seize and impound on sight 42  
all dogs found running at large and all dogs more than three 43  
months of age found not wearing a valid registration tag, except 44  
any dog that wears a valid registration tag and is: on the 45  
premises of its owner, keeper, or harbinger, under the reasonable 46  
control of its owner or some other person, hunting with its owner 47  
or its handler at a field trial, kept constantly confined in a 48  
~~registered~~ dog kennel registered under this chapter or one 49  
licensed under Chapter 956. of the Revised Code, or acquired by, 50  
and confined on the premises of, an institution or organization of 51  
the type described in section 955.16 of the Revised Code. A dog 52

that wears a valid registration tag may be seized on the premises 53  
of its owner, keeper, or harborer and impounded only in the event 54  
of a natural disaster. 55

If a dog warden has reason to believe that a dog is being 56  
treated inhumanely on the premises of its owner, keeper, or 57  
harborer, the warden shall apply to the court of common pleas for 58  
the county in which the premises are located for an order to enter 59  
the premises, and if necessary, seize the dog. If the court finds 60  
probable cause to believe that the dog is being treated 61  
inhumanely, it shall issue such an order. 62

The warden and deputies shall also investigate all claims for 63  
damages to animals reported to them under section 955.29 of the 64  
Revised Code and assist claimants to fill out the claim form 65  
therefor. They shall make weekly reports, in writing, to the board 66  
in their respective counties of all dogs seized, impounded, 67  
redeemed, and destroyed and of all claims for damage to animals 68  
inflicted by dogs. 69

The wardens and deputies shall have the same police powers as 70  
are conferred upon sheriffs and police officers in the performance 71  
of their duties as prescribed by sections 955.01 to 955.27, 955.29 72  
to 955.38, and 955.50 to 955.53 of the Revised Code. They shall 73  
also have power to summon the assistance of bystanders in 74  
performing their duties and may serve writs and other legal 75  
processes issued by any court in their respective counties with 76  
reference to enforcing those sections. County auditors may 77  
deputize the wardens or deputies to issue dog licenses as provided 78  
in sections 955.01 and 955.14 of the Revised Code. 79

Whenever any person files an affidavit in a court of 80  
competent jurisdiction that there is a dog running at large that 81  
is not kept constantly confined either in a ~~registered~~ dog kennel 82  
registered under this chapter or one licensed under Chapter 956. 83  
of the Revised Code or on the premises of an institution or 84

organization of the type described in section 955.16 of the Revised Code or that a dog is kept or harbored in the warden's jurisdiction without being registered as required by law, the court shall immediately order the warden to seize and impound the dog. Thereupon the warden shall immediately seize and impound the dog complained of. The warden shall give immediate notice by certified mail to the owner, keeper, or harborer of the dog seized and impounded by the warden, if the owner, keeper, or harborer can be determined from the current year's registration list maintained by the warden and the county auditor of the county where the dog is registered, that the dog has been impounded and that, unless the dog is redeemed within fourteen days of the date of the notice, it may thereafter be sold or destroyed according to law. If the owner, keeper, or harborer cannot be determined from the current year's registration list maintained by the warden and the county auditor of the county where the dog is registered, the officer shall post a notice in the pound or animal shelter both describing the dog and place where seized and advising the unknown owner that, unless the dog is redeemed within three days, it may thereafter be sold or destroyed according to law.

As used in this section, "animal" has the same meaning as in section 955.51 of the Revised Code.

**Sec. 955.20.** The registration fees provided for in sections 955.01 to 955.14 of the Revised Code and money transferred to the county under section 956.07 of the Revised Code constitute a special fund known as "the dog and kennel fund." The fees shall be deposited by the county auditor in the county treasury daily as collected ~~and~~ Money in the fund shall be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of furnishing all blanks, records, tags, nets, and other equipment, for the purpose of paying the compensation of county dog wardens, deputies, poundkeepers, and other employees necessary to carry out and enforce sections 955.01 to 955.261 of

the Revised Code, and for the payment of animal claims as provided 117  
in sections 955.29 to 955.38 of the Revised Code, and in 118  
accordance with section 955.27 of the Revised Code. The board of 119  
county commissioners, by resolution, shall appropriate sufficient 120  
funds out of the dog and kennel fund, not more than fifteen per 121  
cent of which shall be expended by the auditor for registration 122  
tags, blanks, records, and clerk hire, for the purpose of 123  
defraying the necessary expenses of registering, seizing, 124  
impounding, and destroying dogs in accordance with sections 955.01 125  
to 955.27 of the Revised Code, and for the purpose of covering any 126  
additional expenses incurred by the county auditor as authorized 127  
by division (F)(3) of section 955.14 of the Revised Code. 128

If the funds so appropriated in any calendar year are found 129  
by the board to be insufficient to defray the necessary cost and 130  
expense of the county dog warden in enforcing sections 955.01 to 131  
955.27 of the Revised Code, the board, by resolution so provided, 132  
after setting aside a sum equal to the total amount of animal 133  
claims ~~paid or~~ filed in that calendar year, or an amount equal to 134  
the total amount of animal claims paid or allowed the preceding 135  
year, whichever amount is larger, may appropriate further funds 136  
for the use and purpose of the county dog warden in administering 137  
those sections. 138

**Sec. 955.26.** Whenever, in the judgment of the director of 139  
health, any city or general health district board of health, or 140  
persons performing the duties of a board of health, rabies is 141  
prevalent, the director of health, the board, or those persons 142  
shall declare a quarantine of all dogs in the health district or 143  
in a part of it. During the quarantine, the owner, keeper, or 144  
harborer of any dog shall keep it confined on the premises of the 145  
owner, keeper, or harborer, or in a ~~suitable~~ pound ~~or~~, kennel, or 146  
other suitable place, at the expense of the owner, keeper, or 147  
harborer, except that a dog may be permitted to leave the premises 148

of its owner, keeper, or harborer if it is under leash or under 149  
the control of a responsible person. The quarantine order shall be 150  
considered an emergency and need not be published. 151

When the quarantine has been declared, the director of 152  
health, the board, or those persons may require vaccination for 153  
rabies of all dogs within the health district or part of it. Proof 154  
of rabies vaccination within a satisfactory period shall be 155  
demonstrated to the county auditor before any registration is 156  
issued under section 955.01 of the Revised Code for any dog that 157  
is required to be vaccinated. 158

The public health council shall determine appropriate methods 159  
of rabies vaccination and satisfactory periods for purposes of 160  
quarantines under this section. 161

When a quarantine of dogs has been declared in any health 162  
district or part of a health district, the county dog warden and 163  
all other persons having the authority of police officers shall 164  
assist the health authorities in enforcing the quarantine order. 165  
When rabies vaccination has been declared compulsory in any health 166  
district or part of a health district, the dog warden shall assist 167  
the health authorities in enforcing the vaccination order. 168

Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ this section, a city or 169  
general health district board of health may make orders pursuant 170  
to sections 3709.20 and 3709.21 of the Revised Code requiring the 171  
vaccination of dogs. 172

**Sec. 956.01. As used in this chapter:** 173

(A) "Adult dog" means a dog that is twelve months of age or 174  
older. 175

(B) "Animal rescue for dogs" means an individual or 176  
organization recognized by the director of agriculture that keeps, 177  
houses, and maintains dogs and that is dedicated to the welfare, 178

health, safety, and protection of dogs, provided that the 179  
individual or organization does not operate for profit, does not 180  
sell dogs for a profit, does not breed dogs, and does not purchase 181  
more than nine dogs in any given calendar year unless the dogs are 182  
purchased from a dog warden appointed under Chapter 955. of the 183  
Revised Code, a humane society established under Chapter 1717. of 184  
the Revised Code, or another animal rescue for dogs. "Animal 185  
rescue for dogs" includes an individual or organization that 186  
offers spayed or neutered dogs for adoption and charges reasonable 187  
adoption fees approved by the director under this chapter to cover 188  
the costs of the individual or organization, including, but not 189  
limited to, costs related to spaying or neutering dogs. 190

(C) "Animal shelter for dogs" means a facility that keeps, 191  
houses, and maintains dogs such as a dog pound operated by a 192  
municipal corporation, or by a county under Chapter 955. of the 193  
Revised Code, or that is operated by a humane society established 194  
under Chapter 1717. of the Revised Code, animal welfare society, 195  
society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or other 196  
nonprofit organization that is devoted to the welfare, protection, 197  
and humane treatment of dogs and other animals. 198

(D) "Boarding kennel" means an establishment operating for 199  
profit that keeps, houses, and maintains dogs solely for the 200  
purpose of providing shelter, care, and feeding of the dogs in 201  
return for a fee or other consideration. 202

(E) "Breeding dog" means an unneutered, unspayed dog that is 203  
primarily harbored or housed on property that is the dog's primary 204  
residence. 205

(F) "High volume breeder" means an establishment that keeps, 206  
houses, and maintains adult breeding dogs that produce at least 207  
nine litters of puppies in any given calendar year and, in return 208  
for a fee or other consideration, sells sixty or more adult dogs 209  
or puppies per calendar year. 210

(G) "Dog retailer" means a person who buys, sells, or offers to sell dogs at wholesale for resale to another or who sells or gives one or more dogs to a pet store annually. "Dog retailer" does not include an animal rescue for dogs, an animal shelter for dogs, a humane society established under Chapter 1717. of the Revised Code, a medical kennel for dogs, a research kennel for dogs, a pet store, or a veterinarian. 211  
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(H) "Environmental division of the Franklin county municipal court" means the environmental division of the Franklin county municipal court created in section 1901.011 of the Revised Code. 218  
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(I) "Medical kennel for dogs" means a facility that is maintained by a veterinarian and operated primarily for the treatment of sick or injured dogs. 221  
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(J) "Pet store" means a retail store that sells dogs to the public. 224  
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(K) "Puppy" means a dog that is under twelve months of age. 226

(L) "Research kennel for dogs" means a facility housing dogs that is maintained exclusively for research purposes. 227  
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(M) "Veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed under Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code. 229  
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**Sec. 956.02. Medical kennels for dogs, research kennels for dogs, animal shelters for dogs that are operated by a municipal corporation, or by a county under Chapter 955. of the Revised Code, and veterinarians are not required to obtain a license under this chapter or comply with any other requirements of this chapter and rules adopted under it.** 231  
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**Sec. 956.03. The director of agriculture shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing all of the following:** 237  
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(A) Requirements and procedures governing high volume breeders, including the licensing and inspection of and record keeping by high volume breeders, in addition to the requirements and procedures established in this chapter. The rules shall require that a high volume breeder be assigned a license number and that a high volume breeder provide the license number and the applicable vendor number assigned by the department of taxation whenever it solicits business or it is solicited for business. 240  
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(B) Requirements and procedures for conducting background investigations of each applicant for a license issued under section 956.04 of the Revised Code in order to determine if the applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any of the violations specified in division (A)(2) of section 956.15 of the Revised Code. The rules shall provide that background investigations shall be conducted solely by the attorney general on behalf of the director. The rules shall establish procedures for annually updating background investigation information regarding an applicant after an initial background investigation has been conducted with respect to an initial application for a license submitted under that section. 248  
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(C) Requirements and procedures governing dog retailers, including the licensing of and record keeping by dog retailers, in addition to the requirements and procedures established in this chapter. The rules shall require that a dog retailer be assigned a license number and that a dog retailer provide the license number and the applicable vendor number assigned by the department of taxation whenever it solicits business or it is solicited for business. 260  
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(D) The form of applications for licenses issued under this chapter and the information that is required to be submitted in the applications. The rules shall require an animal rescue for dogs to provide in an application for a license the name and 268  
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address of each foster home that it utilizes. 272

(E) A requirement that each high volume breeder submit to the 273  
director, with an application for a high volume breeder license, 274  
evidence of insurance or, in the alternative, evidence of a surety 275  
bond payable to the state to ensure compliance with this chapter 276  
and rules adopted under it. The face value of the insurance 277  
coverage or bond shall be in the following amounts: 278

(1) Five thousand dollars for high volume breeders keeping, 279  
housing, and maintaining not more than twenty-five adult dogs; 280

(2) Ten thousand dollars for high volume breeders keeping, 281  
housing, and maintaining at least twenty-six adult dogs, but not 282  
more than fifty adult dogs; 283

(3) Fifty thousand dollars for high volume breeders keeping, 284  
housing, and maintaining more than fifty adult dogs. 285

The rules shall require that the insurance be payable to the 286  
state or that the surety bond be subject to redemption by the 287  
state, as applicable, upon a suspension or revocation of a high 288  
volume breeder license for the purpose of paying for the 289  
maintenance and care of dogs that are seized or otherwise 290  
impounded from the high volume breeder in accordance with this 291  
chapter. 292

(F) Procedures for inspections conducted under section 956.10 293  
of the Revised Code in addition to the procedures established in 294  
that section, and procedures for making records of the 295  
inspections; 296

(G) Requirements and procedures that are necessary to 297  
implement and enforce the requirements pertaining to pet stores 298  
that are established in section 956.20 of the Revised Code; 299

(H)(1) A requirement that an in-state retailer or direct 300  
seller of a puppy or adult dog provide to the purchaser the 301

complete name, address, and telephone number of all high volume breeders, dog retailers, and private owners that kept, housed, or maintained the puppy or adult dog prior to its coming into the possession of the retailer or direct seller or proof that the puppy or adult dog was acquired through an animal rescue for dogs, animal shelter for dogs, or humane society established under Chapter 1717. of the Revised Code, or a valid health certificate from the state of origin pertaining to the puppy or adult dog; 302  
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(2) A requirement that an out-of-state retailer or direct seller of a puppy or adult dog that is conducting business in this state provide to the purchaser a valid health certificate from the state of origin pertaining to the puppy or adult dog and the complete name, address, and telephone number of all breeders, sellers, and private owners that kept, housed, or maintained the puppy or adult dog prior to its coming into the possession of the retailer or direct seller or proof that the puppy or adult dog was acquired through an animal rescue for dogs, animal shelter for dogs, or humane society in this state or another state. 310  
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(I) A requirement that a high volume breeder or a dog retailer who advertises the sale of a puppy or adult dog include with the advertisement the vendor number assigned by the tax commissioner to the high volume breeder or to the dog retailer if the sale of the puppy or dog is subject to the tax levied under Chapter 5739. of the Revised Code; 320  
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(J) Requirements and procedures governing the registration of litters under section 956.21 of the Revised Code; 326  
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(K) A requirement that a licensed high volume breeder and a licensed dog retailer comply with Chapter 5739. of the Revised Code. The rules shall authorize the director to suspend or revoke a license for failure to comply with that chapter. The director shall work in conjunction with the tax commissioner for the purposes of rules adopted under this division. 328  
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(L) Any other requirements and procedures that are determined 334  
by the director to be necessary for the administration and 335  
enforcement of this chapter and rules adopted under it. However, 336  
rules adopted under this division shall not establish additional 337  
requirements and procedures governing animal rescues for dogs 338  
other than those adopted under division (D) of this section. 339

**Sec. 956.04.** (A)(1) No person shall operate a high volume 340  
breeder in this state without a high volume breeder license issued 341  
by the director of agriculture in accordance with this section and 342  
rules adopted under section 956.03 of the Revised Code. 343

(2) The director shall not issue a license under this section 344  
unless the director determines that the applicant will operate or 345  
will continue to operate the high volume breeder in accordance 346  
with this chapter and rules adopted under it. 347

(B) In determining whether an establishment is a high volume 348  
breeder requiring a license under this chapter, the director shall 349  
determine if, in any given year, the establishment is a high 350  
volume breeder as defined in section 956.01 of the Revised Code. 351  
All facilities that are located at an individual postal address 352  
shall be licensed as one high volume breeder. Not more than one 353  
license shall be issued under this section for any given postal 354  
address. 355

(C) A person who is proposing to operate a new high volume 356  
breeder shall submit an application for a license to the director 357  
at least ninety days before commencing operation of the high 358  
volume breeder. The application shall be submitted in the form and 359  
with the information required by rules adopted under section 360  
956.03 of the Revised Code and shall include with it at least all 361  
of the following: 362

(1) An affidavit signed under oath or solemn affirmation of 363  
the number of adult dogs that are kept, housed, and maintained by 364

the applicant at the location that is the subject of the 365  
application; 366

(2) An estimate of the number of puppies to be kept, housed, 367  
and maintained and of the number of litters of puppies or total 368  
number of puppies to be produced during the term of the license; 369

(3) Photographic evidence documenting the facilities where 370  
dogs will be kept, housed, and maintained by the applicant. The 371  
director may conduct an inspection of the facilities that are the 372  
subject of an application in addition to reviewing photographic 373  
evidence submitted by an applicant for a license. 374

(4) A signed release permitting the performance of a 375  
background investigation regarding the applicant in accordance 376  
with rules adopted under section 956.03 of the Revised Code; 377

(5) The names and addresses and any other identifying 378  
information required by rules adopted under section 956.03 of the 379  
Revised Code of all persons who will have custody of or control 380  
over dogs kept by the applicant. 381

An applicant shall specify whether the applicant is applying 382  
for a license that is valid for a period of one year, three years, 383  
or five years. 384

(D) During the month of December of the last year in which a 385  
license is valid, but before the first day of January of the next 386  
year, a person who is proposing to continue the operation of a 387  
high volume breeder shall obtain a license for the high volume 388  
breeder from the director for a period of one year, three years, 389  
or five years. The person shall submit the application to the 390  
director on or before the last day of November of the last year in 391  
which a license is valid. 392

(E) The owner or operator of a high volume breeder that is in 393  
operation on the effective date of this section shall submit to 394  
the director an application for a high volume breeder license not 395

later than three months after the effective date of this section. 396  
The director shall issue or deny the application for a license 397  
within ninety days after the receipt of the completed application. 398

(F) A person who has received a license under this section, 399  
upon sale or other disposition of the high volume breeder, may 400  
have the license transferred to another person with the consent of 401  
the director, provided that the transferee otherwise qualifies to 402  
be licensed as a high volume breeder under this chapter and rules 403  
adopted under it and does not have a certified unpaid debt to the 404  
state. 405

(G) An applicant for a license issued under this section 406  
shall demonstrate that the high volume breeder that is the subject 407  
of the application complies with the standards of care and other 408  
standards established under this chapter. 409

**Sec. 956.05.** (A)(1) No person shall act as or perform the 410  
functions of a dog retailer in this state without a dog retailer 411  
license issued by the director of agriculture in accordance with 412  
this section and rules adopted under section 956.03 of the Revised 413  
Code. 414

(2) The director shall not issue a license under this section 415  
unless the director determines that the applicant will act as or 416  
perform the functions of a dog retailer in accordance with this 417  
chapter and rules adopted under it. 418

(B) A person who is proposing to act as or perform the 419  
functions of a dog retailer shall submit an application for a 420  
license to the director. During the month of December, but before 421  
the first day of January of the next year, a person who is 422  
proposing to continue to act as or perform the functions of a dog 423  
retailer shall obtain a license from the director for the 424  
following year. The person shall submit the application to the 425  
director on or before the last day of November of the year 426

preceding the year for which the license is sought. 427

(C) A person who is acting as or performing the functions of 428  
a dog retailer on the effective date of this section shall submit 429  
to the director an application for a dog retailer license not 430  
later than three months after the effective date of this section. 431  
The director shall issue or deny the application for a license 432  
within ninety days after the receipt of the completed application. 433

Sec. 956.06. No person shall operate an animal rescue for 434  
dogs without a license to do so issued by the director of 435  
agriculture in accordance with rules adopted under section 956.03 436  
of the Revised Code. No license application fee shall be charged 437  
to an animal rescue for dogs. The director shall maintain a 438  
database of all persons that are licensed to operate an animal 439  
rescue for dogs in this state. 440

Sec. 956.07. (A) A person who is applying for a license to 441  
operate a high volume breeder or to act as or perform the 442  
functions of a dog retailer under section 956.04 or 956.05 of the 443  
Revised Code, as applicable, shall include with the application 444  
for a license a nonrefundable license application fee. For the 445  
purpose of calculating the application fee for a high volume 446  
breeder, the sale of one dog from a litter constitutes the sale of 447  
a litter. The application fees are as follows: 448

(1) For a high volume breeder: 449

(a) One hundred fifty dollars if the high volume breeder 450  
annually sells at least nine, but not more than fifteen litters; 451

(b) Two hundred fifty dollars if the high volume breeder 452  
annually sells at least sixteen, but not more than twenty-five 453  
litters; 454

(c) Three hundred fifty dollars if the high volume breeder 455  
annually sells at least twenty-six, but not more than thirty-five 456

litters; 457

(d) Five hundred dollars if the high volume breeder annually 458  
sells at least thirty-six, but not more than forty-five litters; 459

(e) Seven hundred fifty dollars if the high volume breeder 460  
annually sells forty-six or more litters. 461

If an application is for a license that is valid for three 462  
years, the applicable application fee shall be multiplied by 463  
three. If an application is for a license that is valid for five 464  
years, the applicable application fee shall be multiplied by five. 465

(2) For a dog retailer, five hundred dollars. 466

(B) The owner of a boarding kennel shall register the 467  
boarding kennel with the director by paying an annual fee of fifty 468  
dollars. 469

(C) Money collected by the director from application and 470  
registration fees submitted under this section shall be 471  
transmitted by the director to the treasurer of state to be 472  
credited to the high volume breeder kennel control license fund 473  
created in section 956.18 of the Revised Code. However, the 474  
treasurer of state shall transfer to the county in which a high 475  
volume breeder is or will be located fifty dollars of the 476  
application fee received from the person who is applying for a 477  
license to operate the high volume breeder or an amount equal to 478  
the fee charged by the county for the registration of a kennel 479  
under section 955.04 of the Revised Code, whichever is greater. 480  
The county auditor shall deposit the money in the county's dog and 481  
kennel fund created in accordance with section 955.20 of the 482  
Revised Code. 483

**Sec. 956.08.** No person operating a high volume breeder or 484  
acting as or performing the functions of a dog retailer shall fail 485  
to comply with the standards established by the commercial dog 486

breeding oversight board under section 956.19 of the Revised Code. 487

Sec. 956.09. The director of agriculture shall appoint 488  
inspectors for the purpose of enforcing the requirements and 489  
standards established by and under this chapter and rules adopted 490  
under it and to act as authorized representatives of the director. 491  
Inspectors shall serve at the pleasure of the director and shall 492  
be employees of the department of agriculture. Inspectors may 493  
issue citations and orders that are necessary to enforce this 494  
chapter and rules adopted under it. The director shall provide 495  
each inspector with an identifying badge and an official uniform. 496  
An inspector shall have training in animal husbandry, kennel 497  
management, record keeping, and first aid. 498

Sec. 956.10. (A) At least once biennially, the director of 499  
agriculture or the director's authorized representative shall 500  
inspect a high volume breeder that is subject to licensure under 501  
this chapter and rules adopted under section 956.03 of the Revised 502  
Code to ensure compliance with this chapter and rules adopted 503  
under it, including the standards of care established under 504  
section 956.19 of the Revised Code. In addition, upon a complaint, 505  
the director may inspect an animal rescue for dogs to ensure 506  
compliance with this chapter. Inspections shall be conducted 507  
without prior notification to the licensee or persons associated 508  
with the licensee. In addition, upon the request of a member of 509  
the public, a public official, an animal rescue for dogs, or an 510  
animal shelter for dogs, the director or the director's authorized 511  
representative shall inspect any facility at which a person is 512  
acting as or performing the functions of a dog retailer to ensure 513  
such compliance. 514

The director or the director's authorized representative 515  
shall inspect a boarding kennel when the director or the 516  
director's authorized representative has received information that 517

the boarding kennel is breeding dogs and may be subject to 518  
licensure under this chapter and rules adopted under section 519  
956.03 of the Revised Code. 520

Inspections shall be conducted in accordance with rules 521  
adopted under section 956.03 of the Revised Code. A record of each 522  
inspection shall be made by the director or the director's 523  
authorized representative who is responsible for the inspection in 524  
accordance with those rules. 525

Upon completion of an inspection of a high volume breeder, 526  
the director or the director's authorized representative shall 527  
rate the high volume breeder in accordance with the rating system 528  
established under section 956.19 of the Revised Code. The director 529  
or the director's authorized representative shall notify the high 530  
volume breeder of the rating assigned to it. 531

(B) The director or the director's authorized representative, 532  
upon proper identification and upon stating the purpose and 533  
necessity of an inspection, may enter at reasonable times on any 534  
public or private property, real or personal, to inspect or 535  
investigate and to examine or copy records in order to determine 536  
compliance with this chapter and rules adopted under it. The 537  
director, the director's authorized representative, or the 538  
attorney general upon the request of the director may apply to the 539  
appropriate court in the county in which inspection will occur for 540  
an appropriate court order or search warrant as necessary to 541  
achieve the purposes of this chapter and rules adopted under it. 542

(C) No owner or operator of a high volume breeder, person 543  
acting as or performing the functions of a dog retailer, owner or 544  
operator of an animal rescue for dogs, or owner or operator of a 545  
boarding kennel shall interfere with an inspection or refuse to 546  
allow the director or the director's authorized representative 547  
full access to all areas where dogs are kept or cared for. If 548  
entry is refused or inspection or investigation is refused, 549

hindered, or thwarted by a high volume breeder, dog retailer, or 550  
animal rescue for dogs, the director may suspend or revoke the 551  
breeder's, retailer's, or rescue's license in accordance with this 552  
chapter. 553

(D) If entry that is authorized by division (B) of this 554  
section is refused or if an inspection or investigation is 555  
refused, hindered, or thwarted by intimidation or otherwise and if 556  
the director, an authorized representative of the director, or the 557  
attorney general applies for and obtains a court order or a search 558  
warrant under division (B) of this section to conduct the 559  
inspection or investigation, the owner or operator of the premises 560  
where entry was refused or inspection or investigation was 561  
refused, hindered, or thwarted is liable to the director for the 562  
reasonable costs incurred by the director for the regular salaries 563  
and fringe benefit costs of personnel assigned to conduct the 564  
inspection or investigation from the time the court order or 565  
search warrant was issued until the court order or search warrant 566  
is executed; for the salary, fringe benefits, and travel expenses 567  
of the director, an authorized representative of the director, or 568  
the attorney general incurred in obtaining the court order or 569  
search warrant; and for expenses necessarily incurred for the 570  
assistance of local law enforcement officers in executing the 571  
court order or search warrant. In the application for a court 572  
order or a search warrant, the director, the director's authorized 573  
representative, or the attorney general may request and the court, 574  
in its order granting the court order or search warrant, may order 575  
the owner or operator of the premises to reimburse the director 576  
for any of those costs that the court finds reasonable. From money 577  
recovered under this division, the director shall reimburse the 578  
attorney general for the costs incurred by the attorney general in 579  
connection with proceedings for obtaining the court order or 580  
search warrant, shall reimburse the political subdivision in which 581  
the premises is located for the assistance of its law enforcement 582

officers in executing the court order or search warrant, and shall 583  
deposit the remainder in the state treasury to the credit of the 584  
high volume breeder kennel control license fund created in section 585  
956.18 of the Revised Code. 586

(E) A dog warden appointed under Chapter 955. of the Revised 587  
Code or an agent of a humane society established under Chapter 588  
1717. of the Revised Code entering on public or private property 589  
to make investigations and inspections in accordance with Chapter 590  
955. or 1717. of the Revised Code, as applicable, shall report any 591  
violations of this chapter and rules adopted under it to the 592  
director or the director's authorized representative and may 593  
examine and copy any records that are required to be maintained 594  
under rules adopted under this chapter. 595

Sec. 956.11. (A) The director of agriculture or the 596  
director's authorized representative may impound a dog if the 597  
director or the director's authorized representative has probable 598  
cause to believe that the dog is being kept by a high volume 599  
breeder or dog retailer in a manner that materially violates this 600  
chapter or rules adopted under it and if the dog's health or 601  
safety appears to be in imminent danger. In addition, the director 602  
or the director's authorized representative may impound a dog that 603  
is being kept by an animal rescue for dogs if the dog's health or 604  
safety appears to be in imminent danger. 605

(B) The director or the director's authorized representative 606  
shall give written notice of the impoundment by posting a notice 607  
on the door of the premises from which the dog was taken or by 608  
otherwise posting the notice in a conspicuous place at the 609  
premises from which the dog was taken. The notice shall provide a 610  
date for an adjudication hearing, which shall take place not later 611  
than five business days after the dog is taken and at which the 612  
director shall determine if the dog should be permanently 613

relinquished to the custody of the director. 614

(C) The owner or operator of the applicable high volume breeder, the person acting as or performing the functions of a dog retailer, or the owner or operator of the applicable animal rescue for dogs may appeal the determination made at the adjudication hearing in accordance with section 119.12 of the Revised Code, except that the appeal may be made only to the environmental division of the Franklin county municipal court. 615  
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(D) The director may enter into contracts or agreements with an animal rescue for dogs, an animal shelter for dogs, a boarding kennel, a veterinarian, a board of county commissioners, or a humane society established under Chapter 1717. of the Revised Code for the purpose of keeping, housing, and maintaining dogs that are impounded under this section. If, after the final disposition of an adjudication hearing and any appeals from that adjudication hearing, it is determined that a dog shall be permanently relinquished to the custody of the director, the dog may be adopted directly from the animal rescue for dogs, animal shelter for dogs, boarding kennel, veterinarian, county dog pound, or humane society where it is being kept, housed, and maintained, provided that the dog has been spayed or neutered unless there are medical reasons against spaying or neutering as determined by a veterinarian. The animal rescue for dogs, animal shelter for dogs, boarding kennel, veterinarian, county dog pound, or humane society may charge a reasonable adoption fee. The fee shall be at least sufficient to cover the costs of spaying or neutering the dog unless it is medically contraindicated. Impounded dogs shall be returned to persons acquitted of any alleged violations. 622  
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Sec. 956.12. If the director of agriculture or the director's authorized representative determines that a person has violated or is violating this chapter or rules adopted under it, the director 642  
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may issue and cause to be served by certified mail or personal 645  
service a citation of violation and an order requiring the person 646  
to cease the acts or practices that constitute a violation of this 647  
chapter or rules adopted under it or requiring the person to take 648  
corrective actions to eliminate the conditions that constitute a 649  
violation of this chapter and rules adopted under it. The order 650  
shall state specifically the provision or provisions of this 651  
chapter or the rule or rules adopted under this chapter that have 652  
been violated and the facts constituting the violation, the 653  
actions that the person must take to correct the deficiencies, and 654  
the time period within which the person must correct the 655  
violations. 656

Sec. 956.13. (A) The director of agriculture may assess a 657  
civil penalty against a person violating this chapter or rules 658  
adopted under it if all of the following occur: 659

(1) The person has received an order and been notified of the 660  
violation by certified mail as required in section 956.12 of the 661  
Revised Code. 662

(2) After the time period for correcting the violation 663  
specified in the order has elapsed, the director or the director's 664  
authorized representative has inspected the premises where the 665  
violation has occurred and determined that the violation has not 666  
been corrected, and the director has issued a notice of an 667  
adjudication hearing pursuant to division (A)(3) of this section. 668

(3) The director affords the person an opportunity for an 669  
adjudication hearing under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to 670  
challenge the director's determination that the person is not in 671  
compliance with this chapter or rules adopted under it, the 672  
imposition of the civil penalty, or both. A person may waive the 673  
opportunity for an adjudication hearing. 674

(B) If the opportunity for an adjudication hearing is waived 675

or if, after an adjudication hearing, the director determines that 676  
a violation of this chapter or a rule adopted under it has 677  
occurred or is occurring, the director may assess a civil penalty. 678  
The civil penalty may be appealed in accordance with section 679  
119.12 of the Revised Code, except that the civil penalty may be 680  
appealed only to the environmental division of the Franklin county 681  
municipal court. 682

(C) Civil penalties shall be assessed in the following 683  
amounts: 684

(1) A person who has violated division (A)(1) of section 685  
956.04 or division (A)(1) of section 956.05 of the Revised Code 686  
shall pay a civil penalty in an amount that is equal to two times 687  
the amount of the license fee that should have been paid by the 688  
person under section 956.07 of the Revised Code. 689

(2) A person who has violated any other provision of this 690  
chapter or rules adopted under it, including the standards of care 691  
established under section 956.19 of the Revised Code, shall pay a 692  
civil penalty of twenty-five dollars. 693

Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate 694  
violation. 695

**Sec. 956.14.** The attorney general, upon the request of the 696  
director of agriculture, may bring an action for injunction 697  
against a person who has violated or is violating this chapter, 698  
rules adopted under it, or an order issued under section 956.12 of 699  
the Revised Code. An action for injunction shall be filed in the 700  
appropriate court in the county in which the violation is alleged 701  
to have occurred. The court shall grant such injunctive relief 702  
upon a showing that the person against whom the action is brought 703  
has violated or is violating this chapter, rules adopted under it, 704  
or an order issued under it. The court shall give precedence to 705  
such an action over all other cases. 706

Sec. 956.15. (A) The director of agriculture may deny an application for a license that is submitted under section 956.04, 956.05, or 956.06 of the Revised Code for either of the following reasons:

(1) The applicant for the license has violated any provision of this chapter or a rule adopted under it if the violation materially threatens the health or welfare of a dog.

(2) The applicant, in the past twenty years, has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to violating section 959.01, 959.02, 959.03, 959.13, 959.131, 959.15, or 959.16 of the Revised Code or an equivalent municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the federal government or, in the past twenty years, has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to violating more than once section 2919.25 of the Revised Code or an equivalent municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the federal government.

(B) The director may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter for violation of any provision of this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under it if the violation materially threatens the health and welfare of a dog.

(C) An application or a license shall not be denied, suspended, or revoked under this section without a written order of the director stating the findings on which the denial, suspension, or revocation is based. A copy of the order shall be sent to the applicant or license holder by certified mail or may be provided to the applicant or license holder by personal service. In addition, the person to whom a denial, suspension, or revocation applies may request an adjudication hearing under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. The director shall comply with such a request. The determination of the director at an adjudication hearing may be appealed in accordance with section 119.12 of the Revised Code, except that the determination may be

appealed only to the environmental division of the Franklin county 738  
municipal court. 739

Sec. 956.16. The director of agriculture, the director's 740  
authorized representative, or the attorney general may require the 741  
attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, 742  
papers, and dogs that are needed either by the director or the 743  
attorney general or by any party to a hearing before the director 744  
and for that purpose may issue a subpoena for any witness or a 745  
subpoena duces tecum to compel the production of any books, 746  
records, papers, or dogs. The subpoena shall be served by personal 747  
service or by certified mail. If the subpoena is returned because 748  
of inability to deliver, or if no return is received within thirty 749  
days after the date of mailing, the subpoena may be served by 750  
ordinary mail. If no return of ordinary mail is received within 751  
thirty days after the date of mailing, service shall be deemed to 752  
have been made. If the subpoena is returned because of inability 753  
to deliver, the director or the attorney general may designate a 754  
person or persons to effect either personal or residence service 755  
on the witness. The person designated to effect personal or 756  
residence service under this section may be the sheriff of the 757  
county in which the witness resides or may be found or any other 758  
duly designated person. The fees and mileage of the person serving 759  
the subpoena shall be the same as those allowed by the courts of 760  
common pleas in criminal cases and shall be paid from the funds of 761  
the authority. Fees and mileage for the witness shall be the same 762  
as those allowed for witnesses by the courts of common pleas in 763  
criminal cases and, upon request of the witness following the 764  
hearing, shall be paid from the money in the high volume breeder 765  
kennel control license fund created in section 956.18 of the 766  
Revised Code. 767

Sec. 956.17. The director of agriculture may contract with 768

any political subdivision of the state to assist the director and 769  
the director's authorized representatives in administering and 770  
enforcing this chapter and rules adopted under it. 771

Sec. 956.18. All money collected by the director of 772  
agriculture from license and registration fees under sections 773  
956.07 and 956.21 of the Revised Code and all money collected from 774  
civil penalties assessed under section 956.13 of the Revised Code 775  
shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the high 776  
volume breeder kennel control license fund, which is hereby 777  
created. The director shall use money in the fund for the purpose 778  
of administering this chapter and rules adopted under it. 779

Sec. 956.19. (A) There is hereby created in the department of 780  
agriculture the commercial dog breeding oversight board consisting 781  
of all of the following members: 782

(1) The state veterinarian in the department of agriculture; 783

(2) The following six members appointed by the governor: 784

(a) One member representing a county humane society 785  
established under Chapter 1717. of the Revised Code; 786

(b) One member who is a county dog warden; 787

(c) One member who is a veterinarian; 788

(d) One member representing animal rescues for dogs in this 789  
state; 790

(e) One member who is a member in good standing of a national 791  
breed parent club of the American kennel club; 792

(f) One member representing the public. 793

Initial appointments to the board shall be made not later 794  
than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Of the 795  
initial appointments, two shall be for one-year terms, two shall 796

be for two-year terms, and two shall be for three-year terms. 797  
Thereafter, terms of office of appointed members shall be three 798  
years, with each term ending on the same day of the same month as 799  
did the term that it succeeds. Each member shall hold office from 800  
the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the 801  
member was appointed. Members may be reappointed. Vacancies shall 802  
be filled in the manner provided for the original appointments. 803  
Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the 804  
expiration date of the term for which the member's predecessor was 805  
appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the term. A 806  
member shall continue in office subsequent to the expiration date 807  
of the member's term until the member's successor takes office or 808  
until a period of sixty days has elapsed, whichever occurs first. 809

(B) The governor shall select a chairperson from among the 810  
board's members. A majority of the members of the board 811  
constitutes a quorum. The board shall meet at least four times a 812  
year in Columbus or at other locations selected by the 813  
chairperson. The chairperson shall determine the agenda for each 814  
meeting of the board. 815

Members of the board shall serve without compensation for 816  
attending board meetings. Members of the board shall be reimbursed 817  
for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the 818  
performance of official duties as members of the board. 819

(C) The board shall provide oversight and evaluation of the 820  
administration of this chapter and rules adopted under it. The 821  
oversight and evaluation may include, but not be limited to, a 822  
determination of whether this chapter and rules adopted under it 823  
and the administration and enforcement of this chapter and rules 824  
adopted under it by the director of agriculture have resulted in 825  
the prevention of cruelty to and abuse of dogs and an evaluation 826  
of the sanctions imposed on violators of this chapter and rules 827  
adopted under it. In addition, the board may make recommendations 828

to the director for changes to the administration of this chapter 829  
and rules adopted under it and to the general assembly for changes 830  
to this chapter that the board considers necessary for the 831  
effective enforcement of this chapter and rules adopted under it. 832  
The board may inspect records kept by the director for the 833  
purposes of this chapter and may interview inspectors employed by 834  
the director to enforce this chapter and rules adopted under it. 835  
The board, by the thirty-first day of December each year, shall 836  
issue a report of its findings and submit it to the director, the 837  
president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of 838  
representatives. 839

(D) For purposes of section 956.08 of the Revised Code, the 840  
board shall establish standards governing all of the following: 841

(1) Housing; 842

(2) Nutrition; 843

(3) Exercise; 844

(4) Grooming; 845

(5) Biosecurity and disease control; 846

(6) Waste management; 847

(7) Breeding limits; 848

(8) Whelping; 849

(9) Any other general standards of care for dogs. 850

(E) The board shall establish a system for rating high volume 851  
breeders licensed under this chapter. Ratings shall be based on 852  
compliance with this chapter and rules adopted and standards 853  
established under it. The board shall determine criteria to be 854  
used in establishing ratings. 855

**Sec. 956.20.** (A) In accordance with rules adopted under 856  
section 956.03 of the Revised Code, at the time of the sale of a 857

dog, a pet store shall provide the buyer of the dog with either of 858  
the following: 859

(1) A record of veterinary examination that states that the 860  
dog presents no evidence of disease or physical deformity at the 861  
time of the examination; 862

(2) A money-back guarantee that is valid for not less than 863  
twenty-one days after the date of purchase of the dog. The 864  
guarantee shall authorize the purchaser of the dog to receive the 865  
purchase price of the dog from the pet store within that 866  
twenty-one-day period if the purchaser presents a statement to the 867  
pet store from a veterinarian who has examined the dog within 868  
fourteen days of the purchase of the dog that the dog has a 869  
significant disease, illness, or injury that was in existence at 870  
the time of the purchase of the dog. 871

(B) A pet store shall post written notice of the pet store's 872  
responsibility under this section in a conspicuous location near 873  
the pet store's cash register. The written notice shall be posted 874  
in accordance with rules and shall be in prominent and easily read 875  
type that is not less than eighteen-point type. 876

(C) At a time prior to the sale of a dog, a pet store shall 877  
provide the name, complete address, and telephone number of the 878  
breeder that bred the dog, the high volume breeder where the dog 879  
was kept, housed, and maintained, and the dog retailer from whom 880  
the pet store acquired the dog, as applicable. The pet store also 881  
shall provide the telephone number and the address of the 882  
department of agriculture. 883

(D) No pet store shall fail to comply with this section. 884

(E) A pet store that fails to comply with division (A)(1) of 885  
this section with respect to the sale of a dog or a pet store that 886  
fails to refund the purchase price of a dog in accordance with 887  
division (A)(2) of this section is liable to the purchaser of the 888

dog for an amount that is equal to the actual damages incurred by 889  
the purchaser within one year after the date of the purchase of 890  
the dog, except that veterinary expenses are to be limited to not 891  
more than five hundred dollars. The pet store also is liable for 892  
reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by the purchaser. In 893  
addition, the buyer of the dog may keep the dog. 894

(F) The director of agriculture or the director's authorized 895  
representative shall enforce divisions (A) to (D) of this section. 896  
Inspectors employed by the director for the purposes of this 897  
chapter may make inspections of pet stores for the purpose of 898  
enforcing those divisions. 899

(G) A purchaser shall commence any action necessary to 900  
recover damages specified in division (E) of this section within 901  
two years from the date of purchase of a dog. 902

Sec. 956.21. No high volume breeder shall sell or otherwise 903  
transfer a puppy that is less than ninety days old without 904  
registering the litter in which the puppy was born with the 905  
director of agriculture in accordance with rules adopted under 906  
section 956.03 of the Revised Code and paying a registration fee 907  
of twenty-five dollars per litter. This section does not apply to 908  
an animal rescue for dogs or an animal shelter for dogs. 909

Sec. 956.98. No person shall violate this chapter or a rule 910  
adopted or order issued under it. 911

Sec. 956.99. Whoever violates section 956.98 of the Revised 912  
Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. 913

Sec. 1901.183. In addition to jurisdiction otherwise granted 914  
in this chapter, the environmental division of a municipal court 915  
shall have jurisdiction within its territory in all of the 916  
following actions or proceedings and to perform all of the 917

following functions: 918

(A) Notwithstanding any monetary limitations in section 919  
1901.17 of the Revised Code, in all actions and proceedings for 920  
the sale of real or personal property under lien of a judgment of 921  
the environmental division of the municipal court, or a lien for 922  
machinery, material, fuel furnished, or labor performed, 923  
irrespective of amount, and, in those cases, the environmental 924  
division may proceed to foreclose and marshal all liens and all 925  
vested or contingent rights, to appoint a receiver, and to render 926  
personal judgment irrespective of amount in favor of any party; 927

(B) When in aid of execution of a judgment of the 928  
environmental division of the municipal court, in all actions for 929  
the foreclosure of a mortgage on real property given to secure the 930  
payment of money, or the enforcement of a specific lien for money 931  
or other encumbrance or charge on real property, when the real 932  
property is situated within the territory, and, in those cases, 933  
the environmental division may proceed to foreclose all liens and 934  
all vested and contingent rights and proceed to render judgments, 935  
and make findings and orders, between the parties, in the same 936  
manner and to the same extent as in similar cases in the court of 937  
common pleas; 938

(C) When in aid of execution of a judgment of the 939  
environmental division of the municipal court, in all actions for 940  
the recovery of real property situated within the territory to the 941  
same extent as courts of common pleas have jurisdiction; 942

(D) In all actions for injunction to prevent or terminate 943  
violations of the ordinances and regulations of any municipal 944  
corporation within its territory enacted or promulgated under the 945  
police power of that municipal corporation pursuant to Section 3 946  
of Article XVIII, Ohio Constitution, over which the court of 947  
common pleas has or may have jurisdiction, and, in those cases, 948  
the environmental division of the municipal court may proceed to 949

render judgments, and make findings and orders, in the same manner 950  
and to the same extent as in similar cases in the court of common 951  
pleas; 952

(E) In all actions for injunction to prevent or terminate 953  
violations of the resolutions and regulations of any political 954  
subdivision within its territory enacted or promulgated under the 955  
power of that political subdivision pursuant to Article X of the 956  
Ohio Constitution, over which the court of common pleas has or may 957  
have jurisdiction, and, in those cases, the environmental division 958  
of the municipal court may proceed to render judgments, and make 959  
findings and orders, in the same manner and to the same extent as 960  
in similar cases in the court of common pleas; 961

(F) In any civil action to enforce any provision of Chapter 962  
3704., 3714., 3734., 3737., 3767., or 6111. of the Revised Code 963  
over which the court of common pleas has or may have jurisdiction, 964  
and, in those actions, the environmental division of the municipal 965  
court may proceed to render judgments, and make findings and 966  
orders, in the same manner and to the same extent as in similar 967  
actions in the court of common pleas; 968

(G) In all actions and proceedings in the nature of 969  
creditors' bills, and in aid of execution to subject the interests 970  
of a judgment debtor in real or personal property to the payment 971  
of a judgment of the division, and, in those actions and 972  
proceedings, the environmental division may proceed to marshal and 973  
foreclose all liens on the property irrespective of the amount of 974  
the lien, and all vested or contingent rights in the property; 975

(H) Concurrent jurisdiction with the court of common pleas of 976  
all criminal actions or proceedings related to the pollution of 977  
the air, ground, or water within the territory of the 978  
environmental division of the municipal court, for which a 979  
sentence of death cannot be imposed under Chapter 2903. of the 980  
Revised Code; 981

(I) In any review or appeal of any final order of any administrative officer, agency, board, department, tribunal, commission, or other instrumentality that relates to a local building, housing, air pollution, sanitation, health, fire, zoning, or safety code, ordinance, or regulation, in the same manner and to the same extent as in similar appeals in the court of common pleas;

(J) With respect to the environmental division of the Franklin county municipal court, to hear appeals from adjudication hearings conducted under Chapter 956. of the Revised Code.

**Section 2.** That existing sections 955.02, 955.10, 955.12, 955.20, 955.26, and 1901.183 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate money to the High Volume Breeder Kennel Control License Fund created in section 956.18 of the Revised Code to enable the Director of Agriculture to begin administering Chapter 956. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it.