



# MICHIGAN INTRODUCES PET WARRANTY LAW

## The Issue:

Michigan [Senate Bill 574](#) imposes new warranty provisions on numerous dog and cat sellers in the state. This legislation provides a list of criteria that makes a cat or dog “unfit for sale” and provides several remedies for purchasers. Provisions of SB 574 are similar to those found in warranty statutes in many other states; however, most pet warranty laws apply only to the retail sale of animals. This bill extends to breeders, pet dealers and others who sell a certain number of dogs and cats to the public per year.

## The Impact:

Senate Bill 574 provides warranties for anyone who purchases an “unfit” dog or cat from any of the following pet providers:

- Pet shops that sell dogs and cats;
- Pet dealers;
- Breeders;
- Any person who engages in the sale of dogs or cats to the public for a profit;
- Any person who sells more than one litter of dogs or cats under six months of age per year; and
- Any person who sells two dogs or cats over six months of age per year.

**NOTE:** The bill defines a “pet dealer” as “a person who for compensation buys or sells dogs or cats”. A “breeder” is defined as “a person who breeds or raises dogs or cats for sale to the public”.

Under this legislation a dog or cat is considered “unfit for sale at the time of purchase” if:

- Within 30 days after purchase, a veterinarian states, in writing, that the animal has symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease or illness that existed in the dog or cat at the time of purchase; or
- Within 90 days after purchase, a veterinarian states, in writing, that the dog or cat died or is ill due to a hereditary or congenital defect.

Anyone who purchases an “unfit dog or cat”, as described above, is entitled to the following warranty remedies:

- Return the dog or cat for a refund of the full purchase price;
- If a replacement dog or cat is available, exchange the dog or cat for another dog or cat of the purchasers choice that is of equal value;
- Retain the dog or cat and receive reimbursements for reasonable veterinary fees. The reimbursement of all reasonable veterinary fees may not exceed the original purchase price of the animal;
- If the dog or cat dies, receive another dog or cat of equal value, if available, and receive reimbursements for reasonable veterinary fees, but the fees may not exceed the original purchase price of the dog or cat;
- If the dog or cat dies, receive a refund of the full purchase price.

### **Recommended Action:**

SB 574 is currently in the [Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform](#) where it awaits its first committee hearing. Check the [Breaking News page](#) of the PIJAC website often for updates on the status of this bill.

If you have any questions about this legislation, contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne at 202-452-1525, x105 or via email at [Bambi@pijac.org](mailto:Bambi@pijac.org).

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The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has been protecting and promoting responsible pet ownership for nearly forty years. Follow our successes, events, and action alerts through Facebook and/or Twitter at PIJAC4pets. If you are not already a Member, please join us today by visiting [www.pijac.org/membership](http://www.pijac.org/membership). For additional information on PIJAC and its many exciting campaigns, please visit: [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org). Or, contact us at 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387); [members@pijac.org](mailto:members@pijac.org).

**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**