

HB 201-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0031

08/09

HOUSE BILL **201-FN**

AN ACT prohibiting the removal of claws from cats.

SPONSORS: Rep. Bordes, Belk. 5; Rep. St. Clair, Belk. 5; Rep. Trottier, Belk. 8; Rep. Read, Rock. 10; Rep. N. Germana, Ches. 15; Rep. Seibert, Hills. 21; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 21; Sen. Abbas, Dist 22

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

ANALYSIS

This bill creates a criminal penalty for declawing a cat.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT prohibiting the removal of claws from cats.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Removal of Claws from Cats. Amend RSA 644 by inserting after section 8-g the
2 following new section:

3 644:8-h Removal of Claws from Cats Prohibited.

4 I. No person shall remove the claws of a cat by performing an onychectomy, partial or
5 complete phalangectomy, or a tendonectomy, by any means, on a cat except when necessary in order
6 to address the physical medical condition of the cat, such as an existing or recurring illness,
7 infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claw that compromises the cat's health. No
8 person shall remove the claws of a cat for cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or for reasons of convenience
9 in keeping or handling the cat.

10 II. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a civil
11 penalty of \$500 for the first violation, \$1,000 for the second violation, and \$2,500 for any subsequent
12 violation.

13 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

**HB 201-FN- FISCAL NOTE
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AN ACT prohibiting the removal of claws from cats.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
Expenditures*	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
County Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Expenditures	Indeterminable			
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	Indeterminable			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association