

HB 231-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0384

08/05

HOUSE BILL ***231-FN***

AN ACT prohibiting the removal of claws from cats.

SPONSORS: Rep. Bordes, Belk. 5; Rep. Read, Rock. 10

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Three

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, 2024.

HB 231-FN- FISCAL NOTE
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AN ACT prohibiting the removal of claws from cats.

FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ State ☒ County ☐ Local ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes a violation level offense that may result in civil actions and penalties for declawing a cat. There is no method to determine how many charges, if any, would be brought as a result of this bill to determine the fiscal impact on expenditures. The Judicial Branch has indicated the potential cost per case for violation level offenses would be \$122 in FY 2024 (not including appeals).

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Judicial Branch