

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 803
May 3, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10400-MH-141A

Short Title: LRC Study Negligent/Intentional Pet Death. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Harrison.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY
3 LIABILITY ISSUES PERTAINING TO NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS
4 LEADING TO PET DEATH IN THIS STATE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) shall study the issue
7 of veterinary malpractice in North Carolina.

8 As part of its study, the LRC shall do all of the following:

- 9 (1) Examine current legal barriers in the State to recovery for pet owners from
10 persons who commit negligent or intentional acts leading to the death or injury
11 of the pet.
12 (2) Examine limitations on damages in the context of pets adopted from an animal
13 shelter or other animal rescue organization offering adoption of animals.
14 (3) Examine the approaches to liability for pet death or permanent injury in other
15 states that recognize the significant role pets play in the health and emotional
16 well-being of many citizens of the state.
17 (4) Examine the effectiveness of current facility and occupational licensing and
18 professional discipline schemes for providers of veterinary medical care in
19 addressing negligence in the provision of veterinary medical care to pets.
20 (5) Any other matters the LRC deems relevant to its efforts.

21 **SECTION 1.(b)** The LRC shall report its findings, together with any proposed
22 legislation, to the 2022 Regular Session of the 2021 General Assembly upon its convening.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

