

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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5532

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

May 6, 2019

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Introduced by Sen. GIANARIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Domestic Animal Welfare

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to prohibiting the declawing of cats

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 381 to read as follows:

3 § 381. Prohibition of the declawing of cats. 1. No person shall  
4 perform an onychectomy (declawing), partial or complete phlangectomy or  
5 tendonectomy procedure by any means on a cat within the state of New  
6 York, except when necessary for a therapeutic purpose. Therapeutic  
7 purpose means the necessity to address the physical medical condition of  
8 the cat, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease,  
9 injury or abnormal condition in the claw that compromises the cat's  
10 health. Therapeutic purpose does not include cosmetic or aesthetic  
11 reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling the cat.

12 2. Any person who performs an onychectomy, partial or complete phlan-  
13 gectomy or tendonectomy procedure on any cat within the state of New  
14 York shall be guilty of a violation of this section which shall be  
15 punishable by a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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