

# HOUSE BILL NO. 6459

October 11, 2022, Introduced by Reps. Rabhi and Aiyash and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to prohibit certain medical procedures for declawing a cat; and to prescribe civil sanctions.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2       (a) "Cat" means a domestic cat of the species *Felis catus* or a  
3 hybrid of that species. Cat includes, but is not limited to, a  
4 savannah cat, Serengeti cat, Maine coon, Bengal cat, or chausie.

5       (b) "Therapeutic purpose" means the necessity to address a  
6 physical medical condition of a cat, including, but not limited to,  
7 an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury, or

1 abnormal condition in the claw of a cat that compromises the cat's  
2 health. Therapeutic purpose does not include cosmetic or aesthetic  
3 reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling a cat.

4       Sec. 3. (1) An individual shall not perform by any means an  
5 onychectomy, a partial or complete phalangectomy, or tendonectomy  
6 procedure, or any other surgical procedure that prevents normal  
7 functioning of the claws, on a cat in this state, unless the  
8 procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

9       (2) An individual who violates this section is responsible for  
10 a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00. A violation of this  
11 section may be prosecuted by the prosecutor of the county in which  
12 the violation occurred, or by the attorney general.