

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Banning Sale of Animal Fur Products]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to ban the sale in San Francisco of Animal Fur Products.

Existing Law

San Francisco law does not presently address the sale of products made with animal fur. California Penal Code Section 598a makes it a misdemeanor to possess, import into the State, sell, buy, give away or accept any pelt of a dog or cat with the sole intent of selling or giving away the pelt. California Fish and Game Code Section 3039 provides that goods made from furbearing mammals and nongame mammals trapped lawfully under the authority of a trapping license may be bought or sold at any time.

19 U.S. Code Section 1308 makes it unlawful to import or export any dog or cat fur product, or to engage in interstate commerce, sell, offer to sell, trade, advertise, transport, or distribute in interstate commerce, any dog or cat fur product, punishable via civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation.

Amendments to Current Law

This proposal would ban the sale or display for sale of “fur products” in San Francisco. For the purposes of this ordinance, “fur” would include any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state, and exclude such skins as are to be converted into leather, which in processing shall have the hair, fleece or fur fiber completely removed, cowhide with hair attached thereto, or lambskin or sheepskin with fleece attached thereto. “Fur products” would include articles of clothing or covering for the body, or any fashion accessory, including handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, and like items, that is made in whole or in part of fur, excluding dog and cat fur products.

The ban would not apply to the sale of fur products by a non-profit organization, used fur products, or fur products made from furbearing mammals and nongame mammals lawfully taken under the authority of a trapping license, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 3039, subdivision (b). It would become operative on July 1, 2018.

The ordinance would charge the Director of the Department of Public Health and/or his or her designee(s) with oversight and enforcement.

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