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1
2 An act relating to abandoning restrained dogs during
3 natural disasters; providing a short title; amending
4 s. 828.13, F.S.; defining the terms "natural disaster"
5 and "restrain"; providing criminal penalties for
6 restraining a dog outside during a natural disaster
7 and thereafter abandoning the dog; providing an
8 effective date.
9

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12 Section 1. This act may be cited as "Trooper's Law."

13 Section 2. Section 828.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to
14 read:

15 828.13 Confinement of animals without sufficient food,
16 water, or exercise; abandonment of animals.—

17 (1) As used in this section:

18 (a) "Abandon" means to forsake an animal entirely or to
19 neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations
20 for care and support of an animal by its owner.

21 (b) "Natural disaster" means a situation in which a
22 hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued
23 for a municipality or a county by the National Weather Service,
24 or the municipality or county is under a mandatory or voluntary
25 evacuation order.

26 (c) ~~(b)~~ "Owner" includes any owner, custodian, or other
27 person in charge of an animal.

28 (d) "Restrain" means to attach a dog to a stationary object
29 or trolley system by way of a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable,

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30 or other device.

31 (2) Whoever:

32 (a) Impounds or confines any animal in any place and fails
33 to supply the animal during such confinement with a sufficient
34 quantity of good and wholesome food and water,

35 (b) Keeps any animals in any enclosure without wholesome
36 exercise and change of air, or

37 (c) Abandons to die any animal that is maimed, sick,
38 infirm, or diseased,

39
40 commits ~~is guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree,
41 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more
42 than \$5,000, or ~~by both imprisonment and a fine.~~

43 (3) Any person who is the owner or possessor, or has charge
44 or custody, of any animal who abandons such animal to suffer
45 injury or malnutrition or abandons any animal in a street, road,
46 or public place without providing for the care, sustenance,
47 protection, and shelter of such animal commits ~~is guilty of~~ a
48 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
49 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or ~~by both~~
50 ~~imprisonment and a fine.~~

51 (4) Any person who restrains a dog outside during a natural
52 disaster and thereafter abandons the dog commits a felony of the
53 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine
54 of not more than \$10,000, or both.

55 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.