

**SENATE BILL NO. 616**

June 24, 1997, Introduced by Senator DINGELL and referred  
to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 358, entitled

"An act to regulate the possession of ferrets; to provide for the  
licensing of ferrets; to provide for requirements for importation  
and rabies control procedures for ferrets; to provide for the  
powers and duties of certain governmental entities; to prescribe  
penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of  
acts,"

by amending section 2 (MCL 287.892).

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

1       Sec. 2. (1) A person shall not own or harbor a ferret over  
2 12 weeks of age unless the ferret has a current vaccination  
3 against rabies with an approved rabies vaccine administered by a  
4 veterinarian, except that rabies vaccinations are not required  
5 for research ferrets kept at research facilities registered pur-  
6 suant to the public health code, ~~Act No. 368 of the Public Acts~~  
7 ~~of 1978, being sections 333.1101 to 333.25211 of the Michigan~~  
8 ~~Compiled Laws~~ 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.1101 TO 333.25211.

1 (2) A person who owns or harbors a ferret that has bitten,  
2 scratched, caused abrasions or contaminated with saliva or other  
3 infectious material an open wound or mucous membrane of a human  
4 being shall report the incident within 48 hours to the county  
5 ~~public~~ health department.

6 (3) A person who owns or harbors a ferret that has poten-  
7 tially exposed a person or other animal to rabies by biting,  
8 scratching, causing abrasions, or contaminating open wounds or  
9 mucous membranes with saliva or other infectious material shall  
10 handle the ferret ~~in~~ AS FOLLOWS:

11 (A) IN accordance with current published guidelines of the  
12 centers of disease control and prevention IF THE FERRET, AT THE  
13 TIME OF THE INCIDENT, WAS NOT VACCINATED AS REQUIRED UNDER SUB-  
14 SECTION (1).

15 (B) IN THE SAME MANNER AS REQUIRED FOR A DOG THAT HAS A CUR-  
16 RENT VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES WHEN THE DOG BITES A HUMAN BEING,  
17 IF THE FERRET, AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, WAS VACCINATED AS  
18 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (1).

19 (4) THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH, OR A  
20 CITY, COUNTY, OR DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT REQUIRE  
21 EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING WITH RESPECT TO A FERRET DESCRIBED IN  
22 SUBSECTION (3)(B):

23 (A) THAT THE FERRET BE EUTHANIZED AND TESTED FOR RABIES,  
24 UNLESS THIS PROCEDURE IS REQUIRED FOR A DOG THAT HAS A CURRENT  
25 VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES WHEN THE DOG BITES A HUMAN BEING.

1 (B) SUBJECT TO SECTION 7, THAT THE FERRET BE QUARANTINED FOR  
2 A PERIOD LONGER THAN THE QUARANTINE PERIOD FOR A DOG THAT HAS A  
3 CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION WHEN THE DOG BITES A HUMAN BEING.

4 (5) ~~(4)~~ A person who owns or harbors a ferret shall  
5 produce proof of a valid rabies certificate signed by a veteri-  
6 narian for the ferret upon request of a law enforcement agent or  
7 animal control officer or the director.