

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1935

(SENATE AUTHORS: MOHAMED, Seeberger and Mitchell)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/27/2025	562	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
03/13/2025	776	Author added Seeberger
03/27/2025	1114	Author added Mitchell

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A bill for an act

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relating to animal cruelty; prohibiting elective declawing of cats; providing for

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civil penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 343.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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Section 1. **[343.256] ELECTIVE DECLAWING PROHIBITED.**

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Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the terms in this subdivision

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have the meanings given.

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(b) "Cat" means an animal of the taxonomic family *Felidae*.

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(c) "Declawing" means an onychectomy or any other surgical procedure to amputate or

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modify a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws. Declawing does not

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include the trimming of nonviable claw husk or placing nonpermanent nail caps.

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(d) "Procedure performed solely for a therapeutic purpose" means a medically necessary

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procedure to address an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition

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in the claws, nail bed, or toe bone, that jeopardizes the cat's health. Procedure performed

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solely for a therapeutic purpose does not include a procedure performed for a cosmetic or

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aesthetic purpose or to make a cat more convenient to keep or handle.

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(e) "Tendonectomy" means a procedure in which the tendons to a cat's limbs, paws, or

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toes are cut or modified so that the normal functioning of the claws is impaired.

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Subd. 2. Prohibited acts. Except as provided in subdivision 3, a person must not perform

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surgical claw removal, declawing, or a tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise alter a cat's

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toes, claws, or paws in a manner that prevents or impairs the normal function of the cat's

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toes, claws, or paws.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Therapeutic purpose.** The prohibition in subdivision 2 does not apply to a
2.2 procedure performed solely for a therapeutic purpose.

2.3 Subd. 4. **Civil penalties.** A person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty
2.4 of \$500 for the first violation, \$1,000 for the second violation, and \$2,500 for the third and
2.5 any subsequent violation. Civil penalties may be recovered by a civil action brought by the
2.6 county attorney or the attorney general in the name of the state.