

# HOUSE BILL NO. 5208

November 04, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Young, Wegela, Conlin, Breen, Price, Morgan, Tsernoglou, Pohutsky, Byrnes, Brixie, Rheingans, Martus, Weiss, Aragona and Wilson and referred to 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 any age of the species *Felis*  
3 *catus* or a hybrid of that species. Cat includes, but is not limited  
4 to, a savannah cat, Serengeti cat, Maine coon, Bengal cat, or  
5 chausie.

6       (b) "Therapeutic purpose" means a physical medical condition  
7 of a cat, including, but not limited to, an existing or recurring

1 illness, infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the  
2 claw of a cat that compromises the cat's health. Therapeutic  
3 purpose does not include a cosmetic or aesthetic reason or reason  
4 of convenience in keeping or handling a cat.

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

10       (2) An individual who violates this section is subject to a  
11 civil fine as follows:

12       (a) For a first violation, a civil fine of not more than  
13 \$2,500.00.

14       (b) For a second or subsequent violation, a civil fine of not  
15 more than \$5,000.00.

16       (3) A violation of this section may be prosecuted by the  
17 prosecutor of the county in which the violation occurred, or by the  
18 attorney general.