

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4836**

By Delegate Pritt

[Introduced January 26, 2026; referred to the

Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §19-20-27, relating to prohibiting a person from taking a dog, cat, or other  
3 animal into a grocery store or retail establishment that sells food unless the animal is a  
4 registered service animal.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 20. DOGS AND CATS.**

**§19-20-27. Prohibition against taking a dog, cat, or other animal that is not registered as a service animal into grocery stores or retail store that sells food; penalty.**

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, no person shall enter a  
2 grocery store or retail establishment that sells food with a dog, cat, or other animal unless the  
3 animal is a service animal.

4 (b) A person that violates this section of code shall be subject to a fine of not more than  
5 \$500. Upon a second or subsequent violation, he or she shall be subject to a fine of not more than  
6 \$1,000.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a person from taking a dog, cat, or other animal into a grocery store or retail establishment that sells food unless the animal is a service animal.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.