

By: King of Parker

H.B. No. 1083

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to termination of the ownership interest in an animal impounded by an animal shelter.

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

SECTION 1. Section 823.002, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 823.002. EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN COUNTIES, CLINICS, AND FACILITIES. Except as provided by Section 823.010, this ~~[This]~~ chapter does not apply to:

- (1) a county having a population of less than 75,000;
- (2) a veterinary medicine clinic; or
- (3) a livestock commission facility.

SECTION 2. Chapter 823, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 823.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 823.010. TERMINATION OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN IMPOUNDED ANIMAL. (a) In this section, "animal rescue organization" means a nonprofit charitable organization established primarily to rescue animals and find adoptive homes for the animals.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c), a person's ownership interest in an impounded animal held in an animal shelter operated in this state terminates on the date that:

- (1) another person adopts the animal from the shelter;

or

1 (2) the shelter transfers the animal to an animal
2 rescue organization.

3 (c) An animal shelter may offer an animal for adoption or
4 transfer the animal as provided by Subsection (b)(2) only after the
5 shelter has complied with any applicable holding period set in an
6 ordinance or rule adopted by the governing body of the municipality
7 or county in which the shelter is located as authorized by Section
8 [826.033](#).

9 SECTION 3. Section 823.010, Health and Safety Code, as
10 added by this Act, applies only to the termination of ownership
11 interest in an animal adopted from an animal shelter or transferred
12 from an animal shelter to an animal rescue organization on or after
13 the effective date of this Act. An adoption or transfer that occurs
14 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
15 effect immediately before that date, and the former law is
16 continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.