

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 379**

**Representatives Lorenz, Carruthers  
Cosponsor: Representative Lear**



**A BILL**

To enact section 5535.17 of the Revised Code to  
establish procedures for microchip scanning of  
deceased dogs or cats found on a public road or  
highway.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 5535.17 of the Revised Code be  
enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 5535.17.** (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Road service crew member" means an individual that is  
employed by a road service employer to perform road  
construction, maintenance, or repair.

(2) "Road service employer" means a person or public body  
that is responsible for employing road service crew members to  
perform road construction, maintenance, or repair.

(3) "Public body" means the state or a county, township,  
municipal corporation, or any other body corporate and politic  
that is responsible for government activities in a geographic  
area smaller than that of the state.

(B) (1) When performing duties on a public road or public right-of-way, including road construction, maintenance, and repair, a road service crew member who discovers a deceased dog or cat shall use a microchip scanning device on the animal prior to its disposal. A road service employer shall provide microchip scanners to its road service crew members for such purpose. 18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

(2) If, after scanning, a road service crew member determines the contact information for the deceased dog or cat, the road service crew member shall communicate that information to the crew member's road service employer. The road service employer, if not a public body, shall notify the public body with jurisdiction over the road or highway on which the deceased dog or cat was discovered and shall deliver the deceased animal to the public body. A public body in possession of such a dog or cat shall make a reasonable effort to contact any person identified in the contact information. 24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

(3) After contacting the identified person, the public body shall hold the deceased dog or cat in a sanitary manner for twenty-four hours to provide the identified person with an opportunity to retrieve the deceased animal. If the identified person does not retrieve the deceased dog or cat within the twenty-four hour period, the public body may dispose of the deceased animal. If the public body is not able to contact any person included in the contact information identified by a microchip scan after a reasonable effort, the public body may dispose of the deceased dog or cat. 34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43