

Chairman Joseph J. Solomon Jr.  
House Committee on Corporations  
Reference bill # 7334

[HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)

Dear Chairman Joseph J Soloman Jr.,  
Senator Lori Urso recommended that I resend my email to the House Committee. I appreciate your consideration on my view on the parrot sale ban HB7334.

Dear Senator Urso and Chairman Joseph Soloman Jr,  
Thank you for your thoughtful reply and for engaging in this important discussion. While I reside in Virginia, I maintain significant business interests throughout the Northeast and operate an 11,000-square-foot pet retail, veterinary, and grooming facility in Brewster, New York. Our store is built around animal health, education, and responsible pet ownership. I would welcome the opportunity to host you should you ever wish to see firsthand how responsible bird care and placement are conducted. I appreciate the intent behind this legislation — protecting animals and reducing relinquishment is a goal we all share. My concern is that the current proposal may be overly broad and could unintentionally create worse outcomes for both animals and consumers.

Although much of the discussion around this bill appears to focus on large parrots with exceptionally long lifespans, the legislation would extend far beyond those species. It would impact more than 400 species of birds, including cockatiels, lovebirds, conures, and parakeets — animals that are widely recognized as appropriate companion pets for many households when owners are properly educated.

Responsible pet stores do not place large, complex birds with just anyone, and many — including my own — choose not to sell species such as macaws, African greys, amazons, or cockatoos due to their specialized care requirements. However, smaller companion birds often represent an accessible and enriching first pet experience, particularly for families seeking a manageable introduction to bird ownership.

Eliminating regulated retail environments for these species does not eliminate consumer demand; it simply redirects purchasers toward less regulated channels such as online sellers, informal breeders, or out-of-state markets where Rhode Island has limited oversight and consumers have fewer protections.

Well-run pet stores provide structured education, health oversight, sourcing transparency, and ongoing support — safeguards that are rarely present in secondary markets. It is also important to recognize that responsible retailers frequently partner with rescues, provide adoption space, and help generate awareness for animals in need. These partnerships support the broader animal welfare ecosystem rather than compete with it.

From a biosecurity standpoint, responsible stores must maintain strict separation between their bird populations and birds of unknown origin due to the risk of highly contagious diseases that may not be immediately detectable. Controlled environments help protect animal populations rather than expose them to preventable outbreaks.

If the goal is truly to reduce relinquishment, policy efforts may be more effective if they focus on strengthening ownership education, care standards, and responsible sourcing rather than removing one of the most regulated sales channels.

Although my store is located roughly two hours from Rhode Island and could benefit from displaced demand, I believe strongly that public policy should prioritize long-term animal welfare and consumer protection over simply shifting where purchases occur.

I respectfully encourage careful consideration of whether a broad retail ban addresses the root causes of abandonment — or merely relocates the transaction to channels with far less transparency and oversight.

Thank you again for your time and thoughtful leadership. If I can serve as a resource or provide industry perspective as this discussion continues, I would welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Robert Cook  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pinogy Corporation and Pet Blvd

This is Bonnie. We use her in educational seminars, birthday parties and talks about the requirements of large bird ownership and why it is not for everyone. .



Robert Cook  
Chief Executive Officer  
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