

## **Legislation – *What's Hot* . . . . .**

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### **PIJAC's Letter on Essential Businesses, Legislative Sessions, and an Update on Burke County, North Carolina**

The identification of and restrictions on essential businesses remains a concern this year as the pandemic continues. Occasionally state and local officials overlooked pet supply and care providers when designating businesses as essential. When this happened, the only local source of pet food was the grocery store's limited options that may not be suitable for all pets or even all pet species. Shipping and shortages further decreased access to pet supplies at times last year. Not only do pets like to eat, but they sometimes need veterinary and other care. In light of this ongoing issue, CFA authorized the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) to add CFA to its open letter to regulators to protect these essential pet services. On December 4, 2020, George Eigenhauser, the CFA Legislative Coordinator, sent an alert to the lists inviting people to go to the [PIJAC](#) website to add their pet-centric businesses to the open letter. And respond, you did! Thank you for that. You may still do so if you missed the announcement. Also, should you become aware of essential pet businesses not being included in new lists, this letter is a good starting point for getting the oversight rectified.

The pandemic also ushered in the brand New Year with us and continues to leave a mark on our legislative processes. One of those impacts is on state session dates. All 50 states will have legislative sessions this year, and some have already seen date changes. California is one state that has postponed the start of their session. State legislative websites are the first go-to for monitoring critical calendar dates. Check these dates regularly since they may fluctuate during the session as well as before.

Burke County, NC

The September 2020 issue of [What's Hot](#) discussed the history behind and recent proposal of breeder permits in Burke County. The ordinance identified two types of breeder permits and the mandates associated with them. Public input meetings were held in August and September. The next meeting of the Animal Advisory Board, which is only required to meet quarterly, was held on December 16, 2020. According to the American Kennel Club, the Board "voted unanimously to table the breeder permit and instead work with AKC on breeder standards of [care](#)".

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