

HB26-1183 – PACFA Sunset Hearing

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee | March 9, 2026

PACFA Consumer Protection Gaps

How Lack of Consumer Awareness and Enforcement Led to Preventable Harm

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Lumi (2020 – 2024)

In 2021, I hired a dog trainer listed on the American Kennel Club website. His business was active with the Colorado Secretary of State, and I believed I had done my due diligence.

Most Colorado pet owners have never heard of the Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act (PACFA) until something goes wrong.

Lumi's Case Timeline: Why Prevention Matters

March 2021	I hired the sitter as Lumi's trainer and later for boarding. I trusted AKC credentials and a valid Colorado business registration.
December 2021	PACFA warned the sitter that a license was required if boarding more than three dogs.
2021 – 2025	The sitter continued boarding dogs without a PACFA license. No follow-up inspection occurred after the 2021 warning.
December 23, 2024	My healthy four-year-old Pomeranian, Lumi, was mauled to death while under the sitter's care.
June 2025	I learned about PACFA for the first time from an animal lawyer and discovered the sitter had already been warned in 2021.
January 2026	The sitter pleaded guilty to operating without a PACFA license and received 12-month probation with a deferred sentence.

Why Reform Matters: PACFA exists to protect animals and consumers — but most pet owners do not know it exists or how to verify whether a provider is licensed. Greater transparency could help families make informed decisions *before* leaving their pets in someone else's care.

Requested Reforms

- 1 PACFA Consumer Awareness Requirement**
 - Provide PACFA consumer info at pet adoption/purchase, vet visits, and boarding/grooming/training services
 - Include: what PACFA is, how to verify licensing, how to check complaint history, and where to file a complaint
- 2 Public Transparency of PACFA Complaints**
 - Improve public access to PACFA complaint history and enforcement actions
 - Enables pet owners to make informed decisions when selecting providers
- 3 Stronger Enforcement for Unlicensed Providers**
 - Ensure meaningful consequences when individuals operate without a PACFA license
 - Allow unannounced inspections when complaints are filed to verify compliance
- 4 Mandatory PACFA License Disclosure**
 - Require license number and verification link on websites, social media, invoices, and at physical locations
 - Allows pet owners to verify licensing before leaving animals in a provider's care

If PACFA licensing and enforcement information had been visible to consumers, I would have made a different decision. Lumi would still be alive today.