



Legislative Council Staff

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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0463 Date: February 18, 2020
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Ginal; Fields Bill Status: Senate Agriculture
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Bill Topic: TREATMENT DOGS AND CATS IN SHELTERS AND RESCUES

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, TABOR Refund, State Expenditure, Local Government, State Transfer, Statutory Public Entity

This bill establishes a standard of care that each animal shelter and pet animal rescue must provide each dog and cat in its custody. It requires that shelters and rescues either adopt out, return to owner, or transfer to another shelter or rescue all cats and dogs that meet certain criteria. It will increase state workload and may increase local government expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

This bill establishes a standard of care that each animal shelter and pet animal rescue must provide each dog and cat in its custody. It requires that animal shelters and pet animal rescues adopt out, return to the owner, or transfer to another shelter or rescue all cats and dogs that:

- exhibit no signs of illness or injury, or exhibit signs of illness or injury for which there is a realistic prognosis for a good quality of life;
demonstrate a willingness to interact socially with humans; and
have not exhibited behavior that is likely to result in bodily injury or death to another animal or human being.

Background

The Department of Agriculture (CDA) administers the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) program which regulates pet animal breeders, groomers, trainers, boarders, shelters, rescues, and sellers. The Commissioner of Agriculture promulgates rules pertaining to minimum standards of physical facility, sanitation, ventilation, temperature, humidity, spacial and enclosure requirements, nutrition, humane care, and medical treatment. The Division of Inspection and Consumer Services in the CDA conducts four types of inspections: pre-license, routine, complaint-based, and follow-up. When violations are noted during an inspection, licensees are expected to correct them. The CDA currently has 7.0 FTE for licensing and inspection of 2,200 facilities statewide.

State Expenditures

The CDA will have an increase in workload to monitor the new requirements when conducting facility inspections and address complaints. This will require training for staff on the new requirements. This workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

Local governments that operate animal shelters that do not currently meet the requirements in the bill will have an increase in workload, and possibly costs, to implement the bill. The amount of workload and costs will depend on the differences between a shelter's current operations and the standard of care and the shelter dog and cat outcomes required under the bill. This could increase workload to develop options for transferring animals to other shelters and rescues, as well as increase costs for veterinary care, staffing, and facilities.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Law

Counties
Municipalities

Information Technology