



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

SB 20-164

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 20-0463	Date:	August 5, 2020
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Ginal; Fields Rep. Duran; Valdez A.	Bill Status:	Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: **TREATMENT DOGS AND CATS IN SHELTERS AND RESCUES**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill would have established a standard of care that each animal shelter and pet animal rescue must provide each dog and cat in its custody. It would have required 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 would have increased state workload and may have increased local government expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note
Status:** The fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

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 was postponed indefinitely by the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee on May 27, 2020.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Law

Counties
Municipalities

Information Technology