



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0022 Date: March 19, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Duran; Soper Bill Status: House Agriculture
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Bill Topic: CARE OF DOGS & CATS IN PET ANIMAL FACILITIES

Summary of Fiscal Impact: [X] State Revenue [X] TABOR Refund
[X] State Expenditure [X] 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 healthy and safe cats and dogs. It may increase state revenue, 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 requires each animal shelter and pet animal rescue to:

- provide each dog and cat in its custody with timely veterinary care;
address the behavioral needs of each dog and cat; and
only dispose of a dog or cat by adopting out, returning the animal to its owner, or transferring the animal to another animal shelter or pet animal rescue if the animal is healthy and safe.

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, transporters, sporting, recreational, exhibitors, and sellers. The Commissioner of Agriculture promulgates rules pertaining to minimum standards of physical facility, sanitation, ventilation, temperature, humidity, spatial and enclosure requirements, nutrition, humane care, disease control, 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 8.0 FTE for licensing and inspection of 2,300 facilities statewide.

Revenue

The bill may increase revenue from fines for violations. These will be deposited in the General Fund and are subject to TABOR.

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.

TABOR refunds. Under the December 2020 Legislative Council Staff Economic and Revenue Forecast, the state is not expected to collect revenue above the TABOR limit in either FY 2021-22 or FY 2022-23, and refund obligations are not anticipated for these years. This bill does not change these expectations concerning refunds to taxpayers.

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 outcomes required under the bill. Shelters could see increased workload to develop options for transferring animals to other shelters and rescues, as well as increased costs for veterinary care, staffing, and facilities.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Information Technology

Counties
Municipalities