



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 172

February Session, 2012

House Bill No. 5123

House of Representatives, March 29, 2012

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS SEIZED IN ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (i) of section 22-329a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2012*):

4 (i) If the court vests ownership of the animal in the Commissioner of
5 Agriculture or a municipality, the commissioner or the municipality
6 may conduct or participate in a public auction of the animal under
7 such conditions the commissioner or the municipality deems necessary
8 or the commissioner or the municipality may consign the animal to an
9 auction or sell the animal through an open advertised bid process
10 whereby bid price and demonstration of sufficient knowledge and
11 ability to care for such animal are factors for the commissioner's or
12 municipality's consideration. All moneys collected from the sale of
13 animals sold by the Commissioner of Agriculture through such open
14 advertised bid process shall be deposited in the "animal abuse cost

15 recovery account" established in subsection (j) of this section. All
16 moneys collected from the sale of animals sold by a municipality
17 through such open advertised bid process shall be deposited by the
18 town treasurer or other fiscal officer in the town's general fund. [In a
19 case where rehabilitative or special care of such animal is required,
20 the] The commissioner or the municipality may also vest ownership of
21 any such animal in an individual or a public or private nonprofit
22 animal rescue or adoption organization, [which annually places ten or
23 more animals in private homes as pets.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2012	22-329a(i)

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which is anticipated to result in the treatment of more seized animals at the Department of Agriculture's "Second Chance" Large Animal Rehabilitation Facility¹, has no fiscal impact.

The Department of Agriculture rescued and rehabilitated approximately 20-25 horses in 2011.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ Located at York Correctional Facility in Niantic

OLR BILL ANALYSIS**HB 5123*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS SEIZED IN ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, a court may vest ownership of a neglected or cruelly treated animal in the agriculture commissioner, a municipality, or other specified entities or people. The commissioner or municipality may auction the animal, sell it through an open bidding process, or give it to certain people or rescue or adoption organizations.

This bill expands the circumstances under which the commissioner or municipality may vest ownership of the animal in a person or organization and extends the pool of possible recipients. It allows the commissioner or municipality to vest ownership of any seized animal in any person or nonprofit rescue or adoption organization. Under current law, the commissioner or municipality may vest ownership of only seized animals that need rehabilitative or special care in a person or a nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization that annually places at least 10 animals as pets in private homes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/14/2012)