

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 13-235**—sHB 6488

*Public Safety and Security Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION AND TEMPORARY  
SHELTERING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS DURING EMERGENCIES**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires municipalities to consider whether to include in their emergency plans of operation provisions for the (1) nonmilitary evacuation of pets and service animals, instead of just livestock and horses, and (2) temporary sheltering of pets, service animals, and animals trained to help first responders. Existing law, which the act does not change, already requires such plans, when appropriate, to include strategies that address nonmilitary evacuation of pets and service animals in order to be approved by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner.

The act also requires local civil preparedness advisory councils to include representatives of local and state animal humane organizations. By law, the councils must also include representatives of (1) municipal civil preparedness agencies and (2) interest groups, including business, labor, agriculture, veterans, and women's groups that are important to the particular community's civil preparedness program. The councils advise local civil preparedness organizations on civil preparedness issues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

**BACKGROUND**

*Emergency Response Plan of Operations*

In order to be eligible for certain state and federal Homeland Security and civil preparedness funds, a town must have a current emergency response plan of operations approved by the DESPP commissioner. The plan must include, among other things, activities and measures designed or undertaken to:

1. minimize or control and deal with the effects of a major attack, disaster, or emergency upon civilians and
2. carry out repairs to any vital utilities and facilities destroyed.

OLR Tracking: VR:RC:TA:RO/ts