
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 309

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL COSTS FOR THE CARE OF CONFISCATED ANIMALS.

SUMMARY:

By law, a court may vest temporary ownership of neglected or cruelly treated animals in a state, municipal, or other agency or person. When it does this, the animals' owner must either (1) give up ownership of the animals or (2) post a surety or cash bond with the agency or person in whom the court vested the animals' temporary care and custody. This bill increases the bond amount from \$500 total to \$500 per animal.

The bill also expands the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner's use of the animal abuse cost recovery and animal population control accounts. It requires him to use these accounts to reimburse a municipal or other public or private agency or person for the cost of providing temporary care to animals that either lasts more than 30 days or exceeds the posted bond amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Animal Abuse Recovery Account

By law, the commissioner uses the animal abuse recovery account to cover the cost of housing and caring for animals DoAg seizes. The account is made up of (1) money DoAg collects from sales of seized animals at public auctions and (2) public or private donations.

Animal Population Control Account

By law, the commissioner uses the animal population control account to (1) implement, promote, and administer the animal population control program and (2) reimburse people completing

animal control officer training. The account is made up of money collected from municipal pound adoption fees and license surcharges on unspayed or unneutered dogs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/17/2014)