



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 79**

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5362

*House of Representatives, March 28, 2018*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. DEMICCO of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF MUNICIPAL POUNDS AND SHELTERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 22-344 of the 2018 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

4 (f) No person shall operate or maintain an animal shelter until he or  
5 she registers such animal shelter with the commissioner to operate and  
6 maintain such animal shelter under such regulations as the  
7 commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and humane treatment  
8 of dogs or cats and the protection of the public safety. Upon written  
9 application and payment of a fee of fifty dollars to offset  
10 administrative costs of such registrations, the commissioner shall issue  
11 such registration to be effective until the second December thirty-first  
12 following issuance provided the commissioner finds (A) that such  
13 regulations have been complied with, and (B) in the case of each initial  
14 application for such registration, that the zoning enforcement official

15 of the municipality wherein such animal shelter is to be operated or  
16 maintained has certified that the animal shelter conforms to the  
17 municipal zoning regulations. Such registration shall be renewed  
18 biennially, not later than December thirty-first, in accordance with the  
19 provisions of this section, and may be transferred by the registrant to  
20 another premises upon approval of the commissioner. For purposes of  
21 this subsection, "animal shelter" means any: [private] (1) Private entity  
22 that operates a building or facility that is used solely to house  
23 homeless animals for the purpose of rescue or adoption and that is not  
24 operated within a private residence, or (2) municipal pound or shelter.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	22-344(f)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than 10,000	Less than 2,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	7,100	Potential Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill requires municipal animal pounds or shelters to register with the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) by paying a \$50 fee. Remittance of the \$50 fee by 142 municipal pounds or shelters would result in a revenue gain of \$7,100 to DoAg and a corresponding cost of \$7,100 to municipalities, in aggregate, in FY 19.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, the bill may result in a minimal revenue gain to DoAg since anyone operating a shelter without a registration is subject to a fine of up to \$200. Any revenue gain to DoAg associated with fines is anticipated to be less than \$2,000 annually.

**The Out Years**

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<sup>1</sup>No fiscal impact for FY 20 is anticipated since registration is effective until the second December 31 following issuance.

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations that occur.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5362*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF MUNICIPAL POUNDS AND SHELTERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires a municipal animal shelter or pound to register with the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner and comply with DoAg regulations on sanitation, disease, humane treatment of cats and dogs, and public safety. Existing law requires this of private animal shelters. Under current law, an “animal shelter” is a building or facility that is not a private residence that is used solely to house homeless animals for rescue or adoption, operated by a private entity. The bill expands this definition to include a municipal animal shelter or pound.

In doing so, the bill requires DoAg to issue a registration to a municipal shelter or pound upon application and payment of a \$50 fee if the shelter or pound complies with applicable state regulations and, for an initial registration, municipal zoning requirements. A registration lasts until the second December 31 following issuance, is renewable biennially by that date, and may be transferred to another premises with the commissioner's approval.

By law, the commissioner or his agent may inspect an animal shelter at any time (CGS § 22-344(g)). If, in his judgment, it is not being maintained in a sanitary and humane manner that protects public safety or if he finds that contagious, infectious, or communicable disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist, he may (1) fine the shelter up to \$500 for each affected animal, (2) order that the conditions be corrected, and (3) quarantine the premises and animals.

Additionally, the commissioner may revoke or suspend the

registration of an animal shelter that fails to comply with his regulations or orders or any state law relating to animals. Anyone aggrieved by a commissioner's order may appeal to the Superior Court. Anyone operating a shelter without a valid registration is subject to a fine of up to \$200.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2020

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 4 (03/14/2018)