



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 82

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5367

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 ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY WAYS TO PREVENT DOMESTIC DOG ATTACKS AND MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF ANIMAL DISPOSAL ORDERS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2018,
2 the Commissioner of Agriculture shall convene a working group to
3 develop recommendations for legislation to: (1) Reduce the number of
4 attacks by domestic animals that result in the death or serious injury of
5 another animal or person, and (2) mitigate the effects of disposal
6 orders for such attacking domestic animals on municipalities and the
7 state by shortening the process for appealing animal control officer
8 disposal orders while ensuring due process for animal owners. Such
9 working group shall consist of the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the
10 commissioner's designee, the State Veterinarian, a representative of an
11 organization that represents animal control officers, a representative of
12 the American Kennel Club, a representative of an organization that
13 represents dog bite victims, a representative selected by the
14 Connecticut Humane Society, a representative selected by the

15 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the chief
 16 elected officials of three municipalities, one of whom shall represent a
 17 municipality with a population of one hundred thousand or more
 18 persons, one of whom shall represent a municipality with a population
 19 between ten thousand and less than one hundred thousand persons,
 20 and one of whom shall represent a municipality with a population of
 21 less than ten thousand persons, a representative of the insurance
 22 industry who shall have expertise with personal liability coverages
 23 and products, a representative of the office of the Attorney General, a
 24 representative of a municipal police department, a representative of a
 25 municipal fire department or ambulance department, an emergency
 26 trauma physician and a representative of the Connecticut state police.
 27 In undertaking its work, such working group shall hold at least two
 28 public forums. The commissioner shall submit the recommendations of
 29 such working group to the joint standing committee of the General
 30 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on
 31 or before January 1, 2019.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the Commissioner of Agriculture to convene a working group to examine the prevalence of vicious dog attacks in the state and develop recommendations for how to reduce the number of such attacks and how to mitigate the effects of disposal orders for such attacking animals on municipalities and the state.

The working group shall submit its findings and recommendations to the environment committee by January 1, 2019.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5367*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY WAYS TO PREVENT DOMESTIC DOG ATTACKS AND MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF ANIMAL DISPOSAL ORDERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner, by July 1, 2018, to convene a 16-member working group for the purpose of developing recommendations for legislation to:

1. reduce domestic animal attacks that kill or seriously injure a person or another animal and
2. mitigate the effects of disposal orders issued against attacking domestic animals on municipalities and the state by shortening the appeals process while ensuring due process.

Under the bill, the working group must hold at least two public forums. The DoAg commissioner must submit the working group's recommendations to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

The bill designates the following individuals as working group members:

1. DoAg commissioner or his designee,
2. State Veterinarian,
3. representative of an organization that represents animal control officers,

4. American Kennel Club representative,
5. representative of an organization that represents dog bite victims,
6. representative selected by the Connecticut Humane Society,
7. representative selected by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
8. three municipal chief elected officials,
9. insurance industry representative with expertise in personal liability coverage and products,
10. representative of the attorney general's office,
11. representative of a municipal police department,
12. representative of a municipal fire or ambulance department,
13. emergency trauma physician, and
14. state police representative.

The three chief elected officials must represent municipalities of different population sizes: one from a municipality with a population of at least 100,000, one from a municipality with a population of at least 10,000 but fewer than 100,000, and one from a municipality with a population of fewer than 10,000.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)