



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 656**

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 349

*Senate, April 30, 2018*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist. and SEN. FORMICA of the 20th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 Any two or more [contiguous] towns each of which has a  
4 population of less than [twenty-five] fifty thousand, and which have or  
5 will provide a dog pound facility within their region, by action of their  
6 legislative bodies, may agree to be served by a regional animal control  
7 officer. Upon certification of such agreement to the commissioner with  
8 assurances from the towns so certifying that they will provide and  
9 continue to provide adequate facilities and compensation for such  
10 officer, the commissioner may, after giving due regard to the regional  
11 aspects of the proposed facilities and whether the proposed region  
12 would be in the best interests of the towns so certifying, establish such  
13 region. Each person so appointed shall have the same powers and  
14 duties within the region to which he is assigned as a municipal animal

15 control officer in each town therein. All costs of maintaining and  
16 operating such pounds and administering and enforcing the laws  
17 relating to dogs within such regions shall be paid in accordance with  
18 the provisions of the agreement certified to the commissioner under  
19 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	22-331a

**APP**      *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:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Various Municipalities	Savings	Potential	Potential

**Explanation**

The bill allows towns with a population of less than 50,000 to be served by a regional animal control facility.

To the extent this bill facilitates the sharing of an animal control facility, a savings may result to participating municipalities. There are currently 142 municipal dog pounds, including at least ten regional facilities.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the actual costs of operating municipal dog pounds.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 349*****AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows more municipalities to open regional animal shelters. Under current law, any two or more contiguous towns, each with a population of less than 25,000, may agree to be served by a regional animal control officer and shelter. The bill (1) removes the requirement that the towns be contiguous and (2) increases the towns' population threshold to those with a population of less than 50,000. By law, the towns must agree to a regional shelter by action of their legislative bodies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

**BACKGROUND*****Legislative History***

The Senate referred the bill (File 118) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that (1) eliminates a provision allowing the agriculture commissioner to use the animal population control account to reimburse municipalities for 25% of the cost of constructing or renovating a regional animal shelter and (2) removes a current requirement that towns opening a regional animal shelter be contiguous.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

## Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 5 (03/14/2018)

## Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 5 (04/17/2018)