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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 7297**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING QUARANTINE AND DISPOSAL ORDERS OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By law, an animal control officer (ACO) has the authority to quarantine a dog, cat, or other animal that has bitten or attacked a person. If the attack occurs off the premises of the animal's owner or keeper, the animal must be quarantined in a public pound, veterinary hospital, kennel, or other enclosure the agriculture commissioner approves. If it occurs on the owner's or keeper's premises, the animal may be quarantined on those premises.

This bill shortens, from 14 days to 10 days, the quarantine period for an animal that has bitten or attacked a person. It requires the agriculture commissioner or his designee, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine, rather than the 14<sup>th</sup> day, to examine the animal to determine whether to continue or end the quarantine. (Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows a quarantined animal's owner or keeper to have a veterinarian euthanize the animal before the end of the quarantine period. The bill does not make conforming changes to this law, which continues to reference the 14-day quarantine period (CGS § 22-358(f).)

By law, an ACO may quarantine an animal that is suspected of being rabid or exposed to rabies. The bill requires an ACO to quarantine, for 10 days, a dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten or attacked a person, companion animal, or other animal. It allows the animal to be quarantined on its owner's or keeper's premises under certain conditions. During the quarantine, the dog, cat, or ferret must be observed for signs of rabies. Anyone who violates a quarantine order related to a biting or attacking dog, cat, or ferret is subject to a fine of up to \$100.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

**QUARANTINE OF DOG, CAT, OF FERRET**

Under the bill, a biting or attacking dog, cat, or ferret must be quarantined (1) in a public pound, veterinary hospital, or commercial kennel approved by the state veterinarian or (2) on the premises of the animal's owner or keeper if the ACO determines it is adequate.

However, if the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, then it may be quarantined on the owner's or keeper's premises only if (1) a licensed veterinarian determines it is medically necessary, (2) the municipality or the ACO issuing the order finds it acceptable, and (3) the animal receives a rabies vaccination on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine, the state veterinarian or his designee must examine the animal to determine whether to continue or end the quarantine.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 1 (03/25/2019)