
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1077

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL SHARED SERVICES FOR ANIMAL CONTROL.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture commissioner to approve any facility for use as a regional dog pound if the commissioner determines the facility's building design does not reasonably permit modification of its outdoor run to comply with regulatory requirements. Presumably, this means the commissioner, when conducting inspections, cannot order a facility to bring its outdoor run into compliance with regulatory requirements if the commissioner determines the building's design would reasonably preclude the facility from doing so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Enforcement Powers of the Commissioner

The law authorizes the agriculture commissioner to enact regulations and enforce dog pound laws. By law, the commissioner may inspect dog pounds and issue orders to correct any improper conditions. If a dog pound does not comply with a corrective order, the commissioner may ask the Attorney General to bring an enforcement action against it.

Outdoor Runs

Under existing regulations, dog pounds must have either an indoor run or an outdoor run with an adjacent indoor pen for each adult dog. Outdoor runs are incompletely enclosed areas adjacent to dog pounds used for impounded dogs to exercise.

Outdoor runs must be at least 4 feet wide, 8 feet long, and 6 feet

high and have (1) partitions at least 4 feet high separating each run; (2) a permanent roof made of material suitable to protect the runs from snow, rain, and excessive sunlight; and (3) a barrier between the roof and top of the runs to prevent dogs from escaping. The requirements apply to pounds completed or renovated after April 26, 1993 (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 22-336-17 & 226-336-30).

Related Bill

sHB 6643, reported favorably by the Planning and Development Committee, allows more municipalities to open regional animal shelters (i.e., dog pound facilities).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/29/2019)