



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 619

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7297

House of Representatives, April 11, 2019

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

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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 22-358 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2019*):

4 (c) If such officer finds that the complainant has been bitten or
5 attacked by such dog, cat or other animal when the complainant was
6 not upon the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other
7 animal the officer shall quarantine such dog, cat or other animal in a
8 public pound or order the owner or keeper to quarantine it in a
9 veterinary hospital, kennel or other building or enclosure approved by
10 the commissioner for such purpose. When any dog, cat or other animal
11 has bitten a person on the premises of the owner or keeper of such
12 dog, cat or other animal, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
13 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional
14 animal control officer may quarantine such dog, cat or other animal on

15 the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal.
16 The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
17 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional
18 animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or
19 disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as the commissioner or
20 such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such order shall be given
21 to the person bitten by such dog, cat or other animal within twenty-
22 four hours. The owner of such animal shall pay all fees as set forth in
23 section 22-333. On the [fourteenth] tenth day of such quarantine the
24 dog, cat or other animal shall be examined by the commissioner or
25 someone designated by the commissioner to determine whether such
26 quarantine shall be continued or removed. Whenever any quarantine
27 is ordered under the provisions of this section, notice thereof shall be
28 given to the commissioner and to the person bitten or attacked by such
29 dog, cat or other animal within twenty-four hours. Any owner or
30 keeper of such dog, cat or other animal who fails to comply with such
31 order shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor. If an owner or keeper
32 fails to comply with a quarantine or restraining order made pursuant
33 to this subsection, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
34 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional
35 animal control officer may seize the dog, cat or other animal to ensure
36 such compliance and the owner or keeper shall be responsible for any
37 expenses resulting from such seizure. Any person aggrieved by an
38 order of any municipal animal control officer, the Chief Animal
39 Control Officer, any animal control officer or any regional animal
40 control officer may request a hearing before the commissioner within
41 fourteen days of the issuance of such order. Any order issued pursuant
42 to this section that requires the restraint of an animal shall be effective
43 upon its issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such
44 order to the commissioner. After such hearing, the commissioner may
45 affirm, modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems
46 proper. Any dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its
47 political subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this subsection
48 when such dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an
49 assigned police officer, is currently vaccinated and is subject to routine

50 veterinary care. Any guide dog owned or in the custody and control of
51 a blind person or a person with a mobility impairment is exempt from
52 the provisions of this subsection when such guide dog is under the
53 direct supervision, care and control of such person, is currently
54 vaccinated and is subject to routine veterinary care.

55 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 22-359 of the general statutes is
56 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
57 *1, 2019*):

58 (a) The commissioner may make such orders for the adequate
59 confinement, control or destruction of any dog, cat or other animal as
60 he deems necessary to prevent the spread of rabies and to protect the
61 public therefrom provided, notwithstanding the provisions of section
62 22-358, as amended by this act, a local director of health may order the
63 destruction of any unowned animal which is not currently vaccinated
64 for rabies for the purpose of rabies testing if the director finds that the
65 animal has bitten a person and the health or life of such person may be
66 threatened. Any person who fails to comply with any order made
67 under the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one
68 hundred dollars. The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer,
69 any animal control officer or any municipal animal control officer may
70 quarantine any animal in a public pound, veterinary hospital, kennel
71 or other building or enclosure approved by the commissioner for such
72 purpose or on the premises of the owner of such dog, cat or ferret, as
73 provided in this subsection, if in the determination of the
74 commissioner or such officer, such animal is rabid or is suspected of
75 being rabid, or has been bitten by, or may have been bitten by, or has
76 been in contact with or exposed to, a rabid animal or an animal
77 suspected of carrying rabies or any wild animal as defined in
78 subsection (d) of this section. The length of such quarantine period
79 shall be determined by the commissioner or the State Veterinarian who
80 shall take into account the age, general health and vaccination history
81 of the animal as well as current accepted veterinary practices. Any
82 suspected or confirmed case of rabies shall be reported to the
83 commissioner by a local director of health or board of health or any

84 veterinarian within twenty-four hours of receipt of such information.
 85 Whenever a person, companion animal or other animal has been bitten
 86 or attacked by a dog, cat or ferret, any state, municipal or regional
 87 animal control officer shall quarantine such biting or attacking dog, cat
 88 or ferret for ten days. During such quarantine such biting or attacking
 89 dog, cat or ferret shall be observed for clinical signs of rabies. On the
 90 tenth day of such quarantine the dog, cat or ferret shall be examined
 91 by the State Veterinarian or a person designated by the State
 92 Veterinarian to determine whether such quarantine shall be continued
 93 or removed. The quarantine of a biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret
 94 shall conform to one of the following: (1) When the biting or attacking
 95 dog, cat or ferret has a current rabies vaccination, the biting or
 96 attacking dog, cat or ferret shall be quarantined in a public pound or in
 97 a veterinary hospital or in a commercial kennel approved by the State
 98 Veterinarian for such purpose or on the premises of the owner or
 99 keeper of such biting dog, cat or ferret when such premises is adequate
 100 for the confinement of such animal, as determined by the authority
 101 that issued such order; or (2) when the biting or attacking dog, cat or
 102 ferret does not have a current rabies vaccination, the biting or attacking
 103 dog, cat or ferret shall be quarantined in a public pound or in a
 104 veterinary hospital or in a commercial kennel approved by the State
 105 Veterinarian for such purpose, or the dog, cat or ferret may be
 106 quarantined or confined on the premises of the owner or keeper of the
 107 biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret due to medical necessity
 108 determined by a licensed veterinarian when such premises is adequate
 109 for the confinement of such animal and acceptable to the municipality
 110 or agency issuing the quarantine order and provided such animal is
 111 vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian on the tenth day of
 112 such quarantine.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	22-358(c)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2019	22-359(a)

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:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Less than 10,000	Less than 10,000

Explanation

The bill shortens, from 14 days to 10 days, the quarantine period for an animal that has bitten or attacked a person. Currently, an animal control officer must quarantine an animal that has bitten or attacked a person and may quarantine one that is suspected of being rabid or exposed to rabies.

The shortened time frame for quarantining certain animals may result in a savings to municipalities, to the extent quarantined animals are held for a fewer number of days in municipal facilities. The savings, anticipated to be less than \$10,000 annually to any municipality would be associated with the provision of less animal feed and veterinary care.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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 10th day of quarantine, rather than the 14th 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 10th day of quarantine.

On the 10th 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)