Bill No.: SB-21
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.
Vote Date: 2/25/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/4/2019
File No.: 44

Disclaimer: The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.

SPONSORS OF BILL:
Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11th Dist
Rep. Patricia A. Dillon, 92nd Dist
Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:
Public Act 14-205 created a task force to consider issues in regards to the humane treatment of animals in municipal shelters. Since the creation of the task force in 2014, the task force has not completed their directive and has continued to meet without clear statutory authority. The bill authorizes the task force to continue their charge and requires them to finish their report by January 1, 2020.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None Submitted.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Annie Hornish, Connecticut Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the United States: The task force is continuing their work to address sheltering issues in a strategic comprehensive manner and to determine best practices for the welfare of animals in municipal shelters.
Senator Martin M. Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore, Senate 11th Dist.: Public Act 14-205 created a task force to consider issues on the human treatment of animals in municipal shelters. Members of the task force are concerned with Connecticut law in regards to companion animals and have requested that their charge include an examination of such laws, or of the creation of an additional task force to study laws concerning companion animals, such as that of Proposed House Bill 6638 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Laws Concerning Companion Animals.

Laurie Maulucci, President, Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners, Inc (CFDRDO): CFDRDO is willing and able to assist the taskforce with its report by the deadline of January 1, 2020 and requests that CFDRDO be included in the task force. Additionally, CFDRDO suggests the following topics be considered as part of the task force’s work: (1) definition of “shelter”, (2) consideration of rescue organizations and separate and distinct entities from shelters, (3) review of current rescue operations, and (4) develop standards for evaluating behavior/temperament of dogs prior to re-homing.

Stacey Ober, Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach, American Kennel Club (AKC): Shared concern that he charge of the task force does not include the recommendations for animal rescue organization standards, and for a statutory definition for “shelter.” AKC recommends that the bill amends the task force to (1) add a seat to the task force for the Connecticut state veterinarian, (2) expand the report to include recommendations for the licensure of municipal and regional shelters and rescue organizations, and (3) standardizing the methods used for evaluating the temperament of dogs prior to re-homing and validating health certificate records of animals imported into the state.

Laura Reid, Chair of the Board of Directors, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC): Recent articles have been written in regards to the mistreatment of animals in shelters and rescues in the state. All providers of pets should be licensed or regulated and held accountable to written standards of care. PIJAC provides recommendations for the task force to include in their report.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Submitted.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca / Ussawin R. Bumpen  Date: 3/17/2019