

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1069

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN DOMESTIC ANIMAL RELATED STATUTES.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 8014)

Senate Calendar No.: 328

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	GF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	Animal Population Control - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes numerous changes in the domestic animal statutes, administered by the Department of Agriculture (DoAg), and results in the fiscal impacts described below.

Section 3 reduces the charges for maintaining a breeding kennel facility after a license has been revoked and for failing to comply with breeding kennel facility licensing requirements, from a class B misdemeanor to a class D misdemeanor. This results in a potential savings to the Judicial Department and a potential revenue loss from fines. The average marginal cost for supervision in the community is

less than \$800¹ each year.

Section 5 allows consumers to bring civil action against licensees for alleged failures to comply which does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. The court system disposes of over 250,000 cases annually and the number of cases is not anticipated to be great enough to need additional resources.

Additionally, **Section 5** results in a potential minimal revenue loss to the state beginning in FY 24 to the extent fines are not collected from those who violate the "pet lemon law." It allows a consumer to bring a lawsuit in court for enforcement action if a pet shop fails to reimburse a consumer under the existing "pet lemon law," and it removes the statutory fine of up to \$500 for a licensee who violates the law.

Section 8 may result in a revenue gain, beginning in FY 23, since it increases the fine, from up to \$100 to \$250, for anyone who violates a rabies order issued by DoAg. The total amount of any additional revenue (\$150 per fine) is dependent on the number of rabies orders found to be in violation.

Section 10 may result in a revenue gain to DoAg beginning in FY 23 as it expands the applicability of the general penalty to a violation of any regulation concerning domestic animals, not just regulations pertaining to restraining or destroying dogs or cats. It also expands the group of individuals who may be charged with violations of the general penalty. (The penalty is a fine of at least \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both.)

Section 11 may result in increased costs to the animal population control account administered by DoAg, starting in FY 24, as it requires the agency to establish a biennial reimbursement rate for payments made to veterinarians that is 75% of market rate. Currently, the

¹ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

reimbursement rate is up to 75% of the market rate or fee charged by veterinarians as of October 31, 2021, with no provision for adjustments. It is expected that as market rates increase, so would costs from this account, to comply with this requirement. The available cash balance in the APCA is currently \$676,935.

Section 13, which repeals the \$0.10 allocation from each dog license fee to UConn for canine disease research, has no fiscal impact as it codifies current practice. No payments have been made for this purpose for the past two fiscal years.

The bill makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes that have no fiscal impact.

Senate "A" stipulates how municipalities must spend local kennel license fees and requires local animal control officers to inspect kennels, which does not alter the fiscal impact described above. It also makes other changes that do not have a fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations, and the actual reimbursement rates set by veterinarians.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.