

## Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB2269

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Shuler

**3. Committee** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title** Confinement and disposition of animals by animal shelters

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill authorizes animal shelters to confine and dispose of dogs running at large without the required tag or in violation of a local ordinance, dogs not licensed as required by law, and cats in violation of local ordinances regarding licensure or running at large. This bill provides that any animal shelter confining or disposing of such animals must be inspected by the State Veterinarian and operated in accordance with regulations issued by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The animal shelters must also be open to the public during reasonable business hours and not be located in a residential dwelling or in violation of local zoning ordinances. The operator of an animal shelter that confines or disposes of such animals must comply with certain reporting requirements. An animal shelter that is operated in violation of Board regulations is subject to civil penalties. This bill has an effective date of January 1, 2002.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal implications:** This bill would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services nor on municipal animal pounds. There would, however, be costs incurred by animal shelters to maintain their facility in accordance with regulations if the shelter was involved in taking in stray animals.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Localities

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No

**11. Other comments:** "Animal shelter" is defined as a facility which is used to house or contain animals and which is owned, operated, or maintained by a duly incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, animal rescue group, or any other organization devoted to the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of animals. "Pound" is defined as a facility operated by the Commonwealth, or any locality, for the purpose of impounding or harboring seized, stray, homeless, abandoned, or unwanted animals; or a facility operated for the same purpose under a contract with any county, city, town, or incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

**Date:** 02/22/01/ mup

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cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade

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