

Department of Planning and Budget 2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB260

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Watkins

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources

4. Title: Animal shelters

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill adds definitions of "companion animal rescue agency" and "foster home," and establishes requirements for operating companion animal rescue agencies and foster homes. The bill also sets out separate registration requirements for companion animal rescue agencies and animal pounds and shelters that use foster homes. Companion animal rescue agencies are not inspected by the State Veterinarian prior to accepting animals and are not required to meet shelter regulations set forth by the Department. Instead, a companion animal rescue agency must self-certify and inspect any foster homes used prior to placing an animal to determine if the home meets the basic owner standards of care as set out in § 3.1-796.68 plus additional requirements. These self-certification and inspection reports are to be filed with the State Veterinarian. Companion animal rescue agencies must register with the Department annually and foster homes must self-certify twice a year that they are continuing to meet the basic owner standards of care with the companion animal rescue agency. Pounds and animal shelters that use foster homes to keep animals accepted by the pound or shelter must inspect those foster homes prior to placing an animal. The foster homes must self-certify twice a year that they continue to meet the basic owner standards of care.

6. Fiscal impact estimates are: Preliminary.

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2002-03	\$88,000	2.0	NGF
2003-04	\$77,000	2.0	NGF

6b. Revenue Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2002-03	\$88,000		NGF
2003-04	\$88,000		NGF

7. Budget amendment necessary: No. Appropriation will be increased administratively when program is established.

8. Fiscal implications: The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates that two full-time positions, administrative costs, and travel expenses are needed to implement the registration and monitoring requirements of the bill. The estimated costs are:

Administrative Specialist (salary and fringes)	\$30,000	\$30,000
Agriculture Specialist IV (salary and fringes)	\$35,000	\$35,000
Administrative expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fixed assets (furniture, computer hardware/software)	\$11,000	\$0
Travel	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	\$88,000	\$77,000

The provisions of the bill allow the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish and collect a registration fee from each companion rescue agency and each foster home used by an animal shelter, animal pound, or companion animal rescue agency. The department proposes a fee of \$100 per year for rescue agencies and shelters and \$50 per year for each foster home. It is estimated that 300 companion animal rescue agencies and shelters and 1,160 foster homes will be registered.

Persons found violating the provisions of this legislation may be found guilty of a class 4 misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$250.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and localities.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 1/31/02kbs

Document: G:\02Fis\Sb260s1.Doc Kendra Shifflett
cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade