

Department of Planning and Budget
2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB340-S1

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron** Orrock

3. **Committee** Courts of Justice

4. **Title** Control of dangerous and vicious dogs; registry; penalty

5. **Summary/Purpose:** Requires the regulation of dangerous and vicious dogs. The bill expands the authority to petition a court to find a dog dangerous to any law enforcement officer. The bill (i) creates a Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry maintained by the State Veterinarian; (ii) requires that a change in the status of a dangerous dog be submitted in writing; (iii) prohibits the transfer of ownership of any dog declared dangerous, except for surrender to the local animal control; and (iv) prohibits the sale, adoption, transfer or foster of dangerous dogs by any animal control officer, pound, shelter, foster care provider or foster home, dealer, home based rescue or other releasing agency. Surrender of dog that is subject of a pending action to animal control shall not be in lieu of prosecution. The bill also (i) expands the definition of dangerous dogs to include dogs that inflict injury to a companion animal requiring the animal to be euthanized; (ii) requires that a dog that has been found to be dangerous or vicious shall be so considered throughout the Commonwealth; (iii) prohibits the importation into the Commonwealth of dogs found to be dangerous or vicious; (iv) requires insurance be maintained for a dangerous dog and raises the policy limit requirement to \$300,000 or maintain a surety bond in lieu of an insurance policy; and (v) limits the leash length for a dangerous dog to not longer than six feet. The bill sets fees for the dangerous dog registry at \$100 for the initial registration with \$35 renewals. Violations of the section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** PRELIMINARY; See item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes; Item 89.

8. **Fiscal implications:** In order to meet the January 1, 2007, deadline to have the Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry operational, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates the costs to develop, implement and maintain the registry at \$200,147 in FY07 and \$78,302 each year thereafter. The department also requires a general fund position to maintain the registry that will cost \$30,920 in fiscal year 2007 and \$37,100 in fiscal year 2008. The agency estimates the proposal will generate approximately \$27,050 in FY07 and \$59,100 each year thereafter from fees required under this legislation.

Also, if any additional people are convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor due to this proposal, they would be subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. Any increase in jail

population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanor or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (FY 2004), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$26.03 per inmate, per day in FY 2004.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Compensation Board, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and law enforcement agencies statewide.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 03/03/06 / jgc

Document: G:\2006\EFIS\Posted\HB340S1.DOC

cc: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Secretary of Administration
Secretary of Public Safety