

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 1900

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

2. Patron Albo

3. Committee Passed both houses

4. Title Cruelty to animals

5. Summary/Purpose:

Under current law, it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to deprive any animal of necessary food, drink, shelter, or emergency veterinary treatment. The proposed legislation would make it a Class 6 felony to deprive any companion animal of necessary food, drink, shelter, or emergency veterinary treatment if the offender had a previous conviction within the last five years for cruelty to animals and the previous or latest conviction resulted in the death or euthanasia of the animal.

6. Fiscal Impact: Final. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: None.

8. Fiscal implications:

For someone convicted of a Class 6 felony, a judge has the option of sentencing him to up to one year in jail, or 1 to 5 years in prison. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to prison.

Due to the lack of data, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has determined, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, that the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space cannot be determined. However, it is expected that the impact will be negligible.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 03/14/2007 / rwh

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