

## *Commission on Local Government*

### **Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact** 2009 General Assembly Session

**Bill:** HB 2263      **Patron:** Kilgore      **Date:** January 28, 2009

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 – 30-19.03:1.1 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

#### **I. Bill Summary**

HB 2263 would move oversight and governance of local animal control officers from the State Veterinarian to the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

#### **II. Fiscal Impact Analysis**

Counties and cities are required to appoint an animal control officer, who may employ one or more deputies, to carry out all laws for the protection of domestic animals. Towns may have an animal control officer if they choose, or they can rely on the county officer. Localities may also contract with each other to provide for animal control. Every locality employing an animal control officer must submit information to the State Veterinarian on the employment and training status of the officer. The State Veterinarian is responsible for developing and approving criteria to be used in required training programs for animal control officers, which shall be made available through regional criminal justice training academies or other entities approved by him. At a minimum, officers must complete a basic animal control course within two years of the date of hire, and additional approved training every three years, 15 hours of which must be training in animal control and protection. HB 2263 would retain all these provisions, but DCJS would have additional specific responsibilities for implementing the training.

The Commission on Local Government received fiscal impact statements from 13 localities (the counties of Augusta, Campbell, Chesterfield, Henrico, New Kent, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Spotsylvania; and the cities of Danville, Portsmouth, Roanoke, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg). Eleven of the localities reported that they would experience no net additional expenditure, while two estimated additional costs under \$2,500, expressing concern that training fees charged to localities would increase under DCJS administration.

#### **III. Conclusion**

HB 2263 would merely move existing oversight and governance responsibilities for animal control officers from the State Veterinarian to DCJS. It does not alter the existing mandate on localities. Therefore, it is unlikely to have any significant local fiscal impact.