

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1802

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

2. Patron: Bell, John J.

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Care of companion animals; tethering; penalty.

5. Summary: This bill prohibits tethering of companion animals outdoors unless the owner is outdoors within sight of the animal. A violation of this prohibition is a Class 4 misdemeanor and a second or subsequent violation is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as local animal control officers will be responsible for enforcing the provisions. As such, the bill may have a fiscal impact on localities.

Violations of the provision result in Class 4 misdemeanors for first offenses, and Class 3 misdemeanors for second or subsequent violations. These misdemeanors may result in fines. The number of violations cannot be determined. All revenue from fines is deposited to the state Literary Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.