

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB801

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

2. Patron: Stanley

3. Committee: Finance

4. Title: Dogs; public animal shelters required to notify intent to euthanize.

5. Summary: This substitute bill provides that when notice has been given to a public animal shelter of the intent of a person to adopt or take custody of a dog or cat that has already become the property of the shelter, the animal shall not be euthanized and shall be kept for a period of not less than three days. The public animal shelter shall reasonably cooperate to accomplish the release of the animal to the requestor. The bill provides that notice shall be given in person or in the form of a phone call, e-mail, or facsimile. The provisions shall not apply to any dog or cat that the public shelter has reason to believe has seriously injured a human or that the shelter intends to euthanize pursuant to subsection E or G of Section 3.2-6546. The bill also makes technical amendments.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 90 of SB900/HB1500.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2017	n/a	n/a	n/a
2018	\$85,412	1	GF
2019	\$85,412	1	GF
2020	\$85,412	1	GF
2021	\$85,412	1	GF
2022	\$85,412	1	GF
2023	\$85,412	1	GF

7b. Revenue Impact: None.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to provide guidance and standards for shelters to document compliance and to enforce the provisions of the bill. There are 110 public shelters in Virginia that are inspected annually. In 2015, approximately 40,278 dogs entered public animal shelters as strays. Ensuring compliance at each shelter for that number of records will increase the time required for routine inspections. Furthermore, VDACS anticipates that there may be complaints as a result of the complex nature of the process to extend the holding period for select animals. Complaints will require staff time for

investigations and may result in civil penalties which require additional time to process. As such, VDACS will require one additional staff member at an annual cost of \$85,412 for salary, benefits, equipment, and travel.

It is also anticipated that this bill will have an indeterminate expenditure impact on localities, as shelters will be required to house, feed, water, and provide veterinary care for animals for longer hold times. A 2016 survey of animal control agencies in 48 localities found that the average number of days an animal remained in the shelter was 18.6. In the same study, the average cost to the locality for one dog to stay in the shelter for one night was \$17.40.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.