

Department of Planning and Budget

2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB959

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

2. Patron: Spruill

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; abandoned animals.

5. Summary: This substitute bill provides that a tenant shall not abandon a companion animal either during the tenancy or after the tenant vacates a dwelling unit. The bill provides that the penalty for such abandonment shall be set out in Section 3.2-6504, which 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 result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The department has no oversight or administrative obligations regarding the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. The department does update and publish on its website the Landlord Tenant Handbook. Any legislative changes made to the Act will be updated, but the department can do so using current resources.

The bill provides that the penalty for violation of the provisions is a Class 3 misdemeanor. Such offenses carry the possibility of fines. The anticipated revenue is indeterminate as the number of violators cannot be estimated. Any revenue from such fines is deposited to the state Literary Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Housing and Community Development; local courts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.