

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB14

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

2. Patron: Kory

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Public animal shelters; dogs and cats; euthanasia notice.

5. Summary: The bill requires a public animal shelter to wait three days beyond the established five-day holding period before euthanizing a dog or cat when a person has notified the shelter of his intent to adopt or take custody of the particular animal. The shelter must make reasonable efforts to accomplish the release of the dog or cat, but is not required to hold the animal if it has reason to believe the animal has seriously injured a human or the animal is critically injured, critically ill or was lawfully surrendered.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 87 of HB30/SB30.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2018	n/a	n/a	n/a
2019	\$86,949	1.00	GF
2020	\$86,949	1.00	GF
2021	\$86,949	1.00	GF
2022	\$86,949	1.00	GF
2023	\$86,949	1.00	GF
2024	\$86,949	1.00	GF

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to enforce the provisions of the bill and to provide guidance to shelters on compliance documentation. In 2016, 75,172 dogs and cats entered Virginia's public animal shelters as strays. Routine animal shelter inspections will require an increase in time and paperwork auditing to ensure all animals were held for appropriate lengths of time and all euthanized animals were in compliance with the bill. The bill may generate an increase in complaints received by the department. 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 \$86,949 for salary, benefits, equipment, and travel to investigate and enforce the provisions of this bill. The department does not have existing personnel who may absorb this workload.

It is also anticipated that this bill will have an expenditure impact on localities, as shelters will be required to house, feed, water, and provide veterinary care for animals for longer hold times. According to a 2016 survey of animal control agencies in 48 localities, the average cost to the locality for one dog to stay in the shelter for one night was \$17.40. In addition to the costs of maintaining the animals, the bill is anticipated to increase recordkeeping requirements and time spent communicating with the public. Localities may need to adjust their annual budgets to accommodate the extra expense.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is the companion to SB175.