

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB271

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Control of dangerous and vicious dogs.

5. Summary: This bill alters the requirements of an owner of a dog that is determined to be dangerous or vicious. The bill establishes requirements for the pre-trial confinement of a dog believed to be dangerous and requires a court, once it has determined that a dog is dangerous or vicious or that the owner of a dangerous dog has violated the dangerous dog statute, to order the owner to pay the expenses of caring for the dog from the time it was taken into custody. The bill also sets conditions on the ownership of a dangerous dog, including by requiring the owner to obtain a registration certificate prior to the return of the animal, raising the registration renewal fee from \$85 to \$150, and removing the option of the owner to show that the dog is muzzled and confined in a fenced yard until the proper enclosure is constructed. The bill requires that (i) the mandatory warning signs at an owner's residence be visible from any place along the residence's property line, (ii) the animal be fitted with a GPS tracking device, (iii) satisfactory confinement be padlocked, and (iv) the dog's leash while off its owner's property be no more than six feet long and held by a person capable of controlling the dog. The bill raises the minimum liability insurance coverage or bond amount for the owner of a dangerous dog from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). Any potential costs associated with the bill will be minimal and can be absorbed in the agency's current appropriations.

The bill may financially impact localities. The bill will increase revenue for localities, as it raises annual registration renewal fees for dangerous dog owners from \$85 per dog to \$150 per dog. In 2017, approximately \$42,500 in dangerous dog registry renewal fees was collected by the localities, and it is estimated that revenue will increase to approximately \$75,000 annually under the provisions of the bill. Currently, VDACS collects a portion (\$25) of the annual fees from each locality in order to support maintenance of the online Dangerous Dog Registry.

In addition, the bill requires dog owners to pay for costs of care associated with housing the dog at the local public animal shelter while it is in custody. The locality may expend additional resources ensuring compliance with the reimbursement requirement and may have costs associated with housing the dangerous dog, if not reimbursed.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.