

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB646

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: Tethering animals; adequate shelter and space.

5. Summary: This bill provides that outdoor tethering of an animal shall not meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate shelter if it occurs (i) between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except when the animal is engaged in conduct related to an agricultural activity; (ii) when no owner is on the property; (iii) when the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower or 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; (iv) during a heat advisory; or (v) during a severe weather warning. The bill provides that a tether shall meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate space if it is four times the length of the animal or 15 feet in length, whichever is greater, and does not cause injury or pain, contain metal chain links, or weigh more than one-tenth of the animal's body weight.

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, as local animal control officers will be responsible for enforcing the provisions.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.