

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2019 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1025

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

**2. Patron:** Spruill

**3. Committee:** Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

**4. Title:** Tethering of animals; adequate shelter and space.

**5. Summary:** Provides that outdoor tethering of a companion animal does not meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate shelter, unless the animal is actively engaged in an agricultural or hunting activity, when tethering is conducted (i) when the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, or 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; (ii) during a heat advisory; or (iii) during a severe weather warning. The bill provides that a tether meets the requirement that an animal be given adequate space if the tether is four times the length of the animal or 15 feet in length, whichever is greater, and does not cause injury or pain, weigh more than one-tenth of the animal's body weight, or have weights or heavy objects attached to it. Current law provides that the tether be three times the length of the animal. The bill exempts agricultural animals from existing provisions related to tethering. The bill also authorizes any locality to adopt ordinances that parallel and make more stringent the state law regarding the care of companion animals.

**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 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:** HB1827 also addresses the tethering of animals.