

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB304

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

2. Patron: Stanley

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Animal shelter euthanasia rate.

5. Summary: Requires any public or private animal shelter or releasing agency to report on an annual basis the euthanasia rate for animals at such shelter or agency to the State Veterinarian. The bill requires the State Veterinarian to notify the Board of Pharmacy of any such shelter that has a euthanasia rate greater than 50 percent and prohibits the Board of Pharmacy from registering any such shelter to purchase, possess, or administer certain euthanasia drugs.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill will increase responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), including enforcing the provisions and providing guidance to shelters to achieve compliance. HB/SB30, as introduced by the Governor, includes \$94,533 in each year for a Senior Animal Inspector to address the increased workload with animal shelter inspections and ensure adequate animal care coverage. With this position in the enacted budget, VDACS will be able to absorb the additional responsibility outlined in the proposed legislation. Currently, VDACS is unable to absorb any additional responsibilities in this program.

VDACS will be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this bill and providing regulations and guidance to animal shelters. Virginia has 155 public and private animal shelters, and staff time will be required to calculate euthanasia rates for each shelter and notify the Board of Pharmacy. Investigations of complaints may take multiple days to complete and may result in civil penalties. The Board of Pharmacy charges animal shelters an annual renewal fee of \$90 for a controlled substance registration. If the Board denies a renewal to an animal shelter as a result of a violation of these provisions, the impact will be minimal.

This bill may also have a fiscal impact on localities, as shelters may be required to house, feed, water, and provide veterinary care for animals for longer hold times to reduce euthanasia rates. A survey completed by animal control agencies in 48 localities as part of the 2016 Companion Animal Licensing Working Group study found that the average number of days an animal remained in the shelter was 18.6. In the same study, the average cost to the

locality for one dog to stay in the shelter for one night was \$17.40. In 2018, approximately 241,106 animals entered animal shelters.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.