

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB891

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

2. Patron: Marsden

3. Committee: Passed the Senate.

4. Title: Animal welfare regulations; keeping of dogs, cats, and rabbits; Animal Welfare Inspector.

5. Summary: Directs the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt comprehensive regulations governing the keeping of dogs and cats by any pet shop and providing for certain inspections of private animal shelters. The regulations are to require an annual \$25 registration by every regulated person or facility and may establish standards that apply only to a particular category of regulated entity. The bill creates the position of State Animal Welfare Inspector as an employee of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services and directs the Inspector or a representative to conduct at least one annual inspection of each pet shop and private animal shelter.

As passed by the Senate, the provisions of the bill are contingent on funding in a general appropriation act.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 96 of HB/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>
2020	\$0	0	GF
2021	\$86,488	1	GF
2022	\$86,488	1	GF
2023	\$86,488	1	GF
2024	\$86,488	1	GF
2025	\$86,488	1	GF
2026	\$86,488	1	GF

7b. Revenue Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	\$0	GF
2021	\$0	GF
2022	\$2,500	GF
2023	\$2,500	GF
2024	\$2,500	GF

2025	\$2,500	GF
2026	\$2,500	GF

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** In order to meet the mandates of this bill, it is anticipated that VDACS will require one full-time equivalent position and a budget of \$86,488 annually, including salaries, travel, and equipment.

The bill requires that VDACS employ at least two animal welfare inspectors to carry out the provisions. Currently VDACS employs one animal shelter inspector; HB/SB30, as introduced, includes \$94,553 from the general fund in each year to support one additional senior animal inspector position. According to VDACS, this position is intended to focus on complaint investigations, which have increased 80 percent over the last three years. It is anticipated that this position will assist with the workload resulting from this bill, but that an additional inspector is still required.

VDACS interprets the intent of the bill to regulate pet shops that sell dogs and cats. Under this assumption, the agency estimates up to 50 pet shops under this bill's provisions that would require annual inspections. Private animal shelters are inspected by VDACS currently; however, these inspections are conducted on an at-risk basis. This bill would require an annual inspection of each private animal shelter as well as pet shops. These establishments are located throughout the Commonwealth requiring travel to visit each location. In addition to performing inspections, investigating complaints, and taking enforcement actions, the inspector will serve in an educator role to achieve compliance with the regulations. The bill requires the agency to hire licensed veterinary technicians, and the personnel may require additional training to develop expertise in the number of species and various environments this bill would regulate.

VDACS estimates that approximately 100 pet shops and private animal shelters will be required to register. If the agency bills those establishments the maximum allowable of \$25.00 annually, that will generate approximately \$2,500 in revenue. Currently, VDACS does not charge fees to the establishments it inspects.

The provisions of the bill are contingent on funding in a general appropriation act.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

- 11. Other Comments:** None.