

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB53

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

2. **Patron:** Campbell, R.R.

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

4. **Title:** Animal care; zoos and petting zoos; seizure of animals.

5. **Summary:** Requires a violation of the Law that has rendered an animal in such a condition as to constitute a direct and immediate threat to its life, safety, or health before allowing the seizure and impounding of the animal by a humane investigator, law-enforcement officer, or animal control officer (ACO), whereas, currently, there need only be an apparent violation of the Law before such seizure and impoundment is permissible. The bill also prescribes that only the State Veterinarian or his representative who has received training in the examination and detection of sore horses as required by federal regulation may seize or impound an equine as a result of violations of the Law's prohibition on equine soring or the administration of drugs to mask such soring.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2022	\$20,000	0	GF
2023	\$20,000	0	GF
2024	\$20,000	0	GF
2025	\$20,000	0	GF
2026	\$20,000	0	GF
2027	\$20,000	0	GF
2028	\$20,000	0	GF

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Although zoos are overseen and inspected by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the federal Animal Welfare Act, the requirement to seek recommendation for seizure from the State Veterinarian will require Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) personnel to increasingly engage in zoological complaints. This will require expertise in the area of zoological medicine and USDA Animal Welfare Act regulations, which the State Veterinarian's Office does not currently have. VDACS also anticipates an increase in calls and complaints to the agency regarding zoos. To meet the mandates of this bill, VDACS would contract with a veterinarian service that has expertise in zoological medicine, husbandry and regulations at

approximately \$20,000 annually. The Department of Wildlife Resources and court system anticipate no impact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Wildlife Resources, court system

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.