

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 158

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

**2. Patron:** Hope, Patrick A.

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

**4. Title:** Devocalization of cats and dogs; veterinarians to keep records of procedures, etc., penalty

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation amends the definition of animal cruelty to include devocalization procedures that do not meet specified criteria. Anyone found guilty of this provision would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. In addition, records of devocalization procedures must be kept for four years and would be subject to audit by the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Indeterminate.** See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The bill is not expected to have a significant impact on the Board of Veterinary Medicine's workload.

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth presently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2011), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$29.98 per inmate, per day in FY 2010.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

Department of Health Professions  
Compensation Board  
Local and regional jails

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 1/12/12

**Document:** G:\2012 Fiscal Year\Efis\HB158.doc