

**Department of Planning and Budget
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: SB610

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

2. Patron: Black, R. H.

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Regulation of care and handling of agricultural animals.

5. Summary: This bill provides that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services occupies the entire field of regulation of the care and handling of agricultural animals and that no locality or humane society shall do so. The bill also defines several terms relating to agricultural animals.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill increases the administrative and regulatory responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) by establishing the agency as the sole regulator of the care and handling of agricultural animals. The bill expands the definition of “agricultural animal” to include hunting dogs, working dogs, and show dogs. Currently, VDACS is not responsible for regulating, inspecting, or monitoring dog shows, but under this legislation the department may assume that role.

The department’s Office of Animal Care and Health Policy’s appropriation is \$183,923, and the staff consists of one inspector, one veterinarian, and one manager. According to VDACS, the appropriation and staff will need to be doubled in order to assume the regulatory responsibilities associated with the legislation. However, exact figures of fiscal impact on the agency cannot be determined at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/25/12

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