

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1464

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: Rasoul

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Report of cruelty to equines.

5. Summary: The bill requires localities to submit annually a report to the State Veterinarian detailing the number of persons who have violated the animal cruelty statute with respect to equine animals as well as the nature of each violation and the penalty imposed in each instance.

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

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill as written does not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). However, if it is intended that the department will compile, report, analyze, or provide the information reported by localities, then there will be a fiscal impact.

In order to facilitate online reporting by localities or compilation and analysis of the data by VDACS, a general fund appropriation of \$256,596 initially, and \$176,596 each fiscal year thereafter, would be necessary to administer the program.

Based on costs of similar on-line reporting tools, the department anticipates that it will cost \$100,000 to develop and \$20,000 annually to maintain the database that would be necessary to manage collecting of this data and providing it to the public. The database system would need to be capable of collecting data from each locality, compiling the data, and displaying it in a format accessible to the public.

In addition, the department will require two full-time positions (one administrative support and one technology support position) to administer this program at a total cost of \$156,596 annually. The administrative support will be required to facilitate collection of data from potentially multiple sources within a locality. The requested information may be maintained by animal control, law enforcement, local court systems or a combination of all, and the maintenance of such information can vary among localities. The administrative support position will be responsible for verifying accuracy and security of the information and be available for inquiries and requests from the public and local government. The technology

support position would oversee the development of the computer system and be responsible for managing ongoing maintenance. The department does not have existing personnel that can fulfill these functions.

There may be an undetermined fiscal impact on each locality to track and submit the required data.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.