

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB28

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

2. Patron: Stanley

3. Committee: Finance

4. Title: Medical research on cats and dogs

5. Summary: The proposed legislation prohibits the appropriation of state general funds to or expended by any organization, whether public or private, for carrying out any medically unnecessary scientific or medical research on cats or dogs that may cause significant pain or distress to the animal classified under category E by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Line 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) classifies animal research in four “Categories of Pain and Distress (B, C, D and E).” Institutions of higher education conducting research that falls within the four categories must report annually. When completing the report, researchers must assign each animal species listed to one of the four categories of pain/distress that apply to the animal at any time while on the protocol.

According to selected public institutions of higher education with extensive research programs, Category E research using cats and dogs is not currently underway at these institutions. However, advances in research projects are difficult to predict, so it is unknown if the institutions might pursue future research projects that may involve cats and dogs.

This legislation could be interpreted as preventing any public institution relying on state general fund support from conducting Category E research on cats and dogs. If so, it is possible that public institutions could not pursue such research in the future no matter the source of funds.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Public institutions of higher education

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.