

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1552

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

2. Patron: Levine

3. Committee: Passed both Houses.

4. Title: Tethering animals; adequate shelter and space.

5. Summary: Provides that the outdoor tethering of an animal shall not constitute the provision of adequate shelter (a) unless the animal is safe from predators and well suited and well equipped to tolerate its environment; (b) during the effective period for a hurricane warning or tropical storm warning issued for the area by the National Weather Service; or (c) (1) during a heat advisory issued by a local or state authority, (2) when the actual or effective outdoor temperature is 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher or 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, or (3) during the effective period for a severe weather warning issued for the area by the National Weather Service, including a winter storm, tornado, or severe thunderstorm warning, unless an animal control officer, having inspected an animal's individual circumstances in clause (c) (1), (2), or (3), has determined the animal to be safe from predators and well suited and well equipped to tolerate its environment.

The bill increases certain minimum tether length requirements to meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate space by requiring that a tether be at least 15 feet in length or four times the length of the animal, whichever is greater. In addition, the bill provides an exception to the length requirements when an animal control officer, having inspected an animal's individual circumstances, has determined that in such an individual case, a tether of at least 10 feet or three times the length of the animal, but shorter than 15 feet or four times the length of the animal, makes the animal more safe, more suited, and better equipped to tolerate its environment than a longer tether. Current law requires the tether to be at least 10 feet in length or three times the length of the animal, whichever is greater.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as local animal control officers will be responsible for enforcing the provisions.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB272 is the companion to this bill.