

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB310

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

2. Patron: Stanley

3. Committee: Finance and Appropriations

4. Title: Public animal shelters; notice to euthanize.

5. Summary: Requires a public animal shelter to adopt a policy that provides that, when notice has been given to the shelter of the intent of a releasing agency to adopt or take custody of a dog or cat that has already become the property of the shelter, then the animal shall not be euthanized and shall be kept for a certain number of days, commencing on the day immediately following the day upon which notice is given unless the requester claims the dog or cat sooner. The shelter must make reasonable efforts to accomplish the release of the animal but is not required hold the animal if it has reason to believe that the animal has seriously injured a human or the animal meets certain other specified conditions for euthanasia.

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

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.

This bill may impact localities, as shelters may be required to house, feed, water, and provide veterinary care for animals for longer hold times. A survey completed by animal control agencies in 48 localities as part of the 2016 Companion Animal Licensing Working Group study found that the average number of days an animal remained in the shelter was 18.6. In the same study, the average cost to the locality for one dog to stay in the shelter for one night was \$17.40.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.