

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB891

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

2. Patron: Marsden

3. Committee: Passed both Houses.

4. Title: Animal welfare regulations; keeping of animals; State Animal Welfare Inspector.

5. Summary: Directs the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt comprehensive regulations governing the keeping of dogs and cats by any pet shop. The regulations are to require an annual \$250 registration for any private, for-profit entity required to register. The bill creates the position of State Animal Welfare Inspector as an employee of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services and directs the Inspector or a representative to conduct at least one annual inspection of each pet shop.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final.

7a. Expenditure Impact: See item 8.

7b. Revenue Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	\$0	GF
2021	\$0	GF
2022	\$12,500	GF
2023	\$12,500	GF
2024	\$12,500	GF
2025	\$12,500	GF
2026	\$12,500	GF

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill will increase responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), including the registration and inspection of pet shops. The bill requires that VDACS employ at least two animal welfare inspectors to carry out the provisions. Currently VDACS employs one animal shelter inspector; HB/SB30, as introduced, includes \$94,553 from the general fund in each year to support one additional senior animal inspector position. With this position in the budget, VDACS will be able to absorb the additional responsibility outlined in the proposed legislation.

VDACS interprets the intent of the bill to regulate pet shops that sell dogs and cats. Under this assumption, the agency estimates up to 50 pet shops under this bill's provisions that

would require annual inspections. These establishments are located throughout the Commonwealth requiring travel to visit each location. In addition to performing inspections, investigating complaints, and taking enforcement actions, the inspector will serve in an educator role to achieve compliance with the regulations. The bill requires the agency to hire licensed veterinary technicians, and the personnel may require additional training to develop expertise in the number of species and various environments this bill would regulate.

VDACS estimates that approximately 50 pet shops will be required to register. If the agency billed those establishments the maximum amount of \$250.00 annually, that would generate about \$12,500 in revenue. Currently, VDACS does not charge fees to the establishments it inspects.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.