

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1412

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

2. **Patron:** Stanley

3. **Committee:** Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. **Title:** Pet shops, dealers, and dog breeders; employees convicted of animal abuse; penalty.

5. **Summary:** Requires pet shops, dealers, and commercial dog breeders to obtain a signed statement from any prospective owner, director, officer, manager, member, operator, member of staff, or animal caregiver of such pet shop, dealer, or commercial dog breeder, respectively, that such person has never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment. The bill prohibits pet shops from selling or giving for adoption an animal without first obtaining such statement from the purchaser or adopter and prohibits dealers and commercial dog breeders from importing, selling, or offering for sale any dog to a pet shop without first obtaining such statement from each owner, director, officer, manager, member, operator, member of staff, and animal caregiver of the pet shop. Failure by such person to provide, or by such pet shop, dealer, or dog breeder to obtain, such statement is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

A violation of the provisions of this bill is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Such offense is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. According to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, not enough information is available to reliably estimate the increase in jail population as a result of this proposal. However, any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds a large portion of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2020), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.59 per inmate, per day in FY 2019. Any revenue from fines is deposited to the Literary Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Corrections; local and regional courts and jails; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.