

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1451

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Orrock

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

4. **Title:** Pet shops; posting of information about dogs; civil penalty.

5. **Summary:** Provides for the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation when (i) any owner of a pet shop that sells dogs does not maintain a written record for each dog in its possession containing certain information or (ii) a pet shop that sells dogs fails to post a notice stating that USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service inspection reports are available prior to purchase. Currently, such violations are subject to the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

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

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). The level of regulatory oversight required by this bill cannot be determined. Currently, such violations are subject to the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA), and VDACS is not aware of any civil penalty assessments under the VCPA. VDACS anticipates receiving complaints that could lead to the enforcement of the bill's requirements and potential civil penalty assessments. There are approximately 20 or fewer pet shops in the Commonwealth, so any revenue from the assessment of civil penalties is expected to be minimal.

It is anticipated that any costs associated with the bill would be minimal and could be absorbed in existing general fund appropriation.

This bill specifies that civil penalties assessed under this section shall be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General does not anticipate any fiscal impact as a result of the passing of this bill.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of the Attorney General

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. Other Comments: None