

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2331

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Campbell, E. H.

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

4. **Title:** Animal care; seizure of animals; zoos.

5. **Summary:** Adds animals located at a zoo or petting zoo, defined in the bill, with agricultural animals as exceptions to the standards for seizure or impoundment of companion animals.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill will have an absorbable expenditure impact on the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). Although zoos are overseen and inspected by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the federal Animal Welfare Act and by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, VDACS anticipates that the requirement to seek recommendation for seizure from the State Veterinarian will require agency personnel to increasingly engage in zoological complaints and require expertise within the department in the area of zoological medicine and USDA Animal Welfare Act regulations. The State Veterinarian's Office does not have expertise in this area. Additionally, VDACS is anticipating experiencing an increase in calls and complaints to the agency regarding zoos.

To meet the mandates of this bill, VDACS would contract with a veterinarian service that has expertise in zoological medicine, husbandry, and regulations at approximately \$20,000 annually. VDACS anticipates being able to absorb this cost.

The Department of Wildlife Resources anticipates being able to absorb any costs from this bill with current resources.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Wildlife Resources

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

11. Other Comments: None