

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB223

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Orrock

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title:** Cruelty to animals; possession and ownership of animals.

**5. Summary:** Provides that any person convicted of felony cruelty to animals may be prohibited by the court from possession or ownership of animals for life and that any person convicted of misdemeanor cruelty to animals may be prohibited by the court from possession or ownership of animals for a period of up to five years. The bill provides that any person who violates such prohibition shall be punished for contempt of court, and the court shall order that any animal possessed or owned by such person may be disposed of by a local governing body or delivered to another person with a right of property in the animal. Under current law, such prohibition is limited to companion animals and a period equal to the statutory maximum period of incarceration.

The bill further provides that any person who has his rights to possession or ownership of companion or equine animals prohibited pursuant to a felony conviction may petition the court where such conviction occurred for a restoration of his rights after five years from the date of conviction.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the passage of this legislation. The courts anticipate being able to absorb any increase in workload within current resources. Contempt of court is punishable by no more than ten days in jail and a fine up to \$250.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is similar to SB11 as engrossed.