

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB223H1

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ 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 companion or equine animals for life and that any person convicted of misdemeanor cruelty to animals may be prohibited by the court from possession or ownership of such animals for a period of up to five years. Under current law, such prohibition is limited to companion animals and a period equal to the statutory maximum period of incarceration. Additionally, this bill adds a contempt of court punishment.

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:** None