COMMENTS REGARDING HB 1463
Regarding PA Dog License Fee Increase and
Electronic Database

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Key Points

- The value of licensing dogs
- Licensing agents vs treasurers and sub-agents
- Proof of identify and age requirements
- Developing and utilizing a statewide licensing database
- Timetable for implementation

1. Section 200(b) Compensation – The term "agents" in section 200(b) seems to imply that agents appointed by the secretary would act in the same capacity and have the same requirements as treasurers; and that appointed agents would receive the same compensation as the treasurers for the sale of licenses.
    a. If the compensation component takes effect immediately, as stated in this bill, how would the agents sell licenses apart from a yet-to-be established statewide, web-based licensing program?
    b. Would appointed agents be subject to the same independent audits that the treasurers are?
    c. Would the appointed agents be responsible for remitting directly to the Department of Agriculture?
    d. Would the appointed agents be subject to the same Open Records requirements and record retention policies?
2. Section 200(c) Proof Required – How will each agent secure positive proof of the owner's identification, age, and disability, if any, and the dog's spay/neuter status for each dog license sold if issuing licenses through a web-based licensing program?
3. Section 200(e) Records – With the creation of an electronic database maintained by the state, the necessity to deliver forms to the department would no longer be relevant.
4. Section 200 (e1) Electronic Records – With the creation of an electronic database maintained by the state, the necessity to deliver electronic records to the department would no longer be relevant.
5. Section 200 (i) Unlawful acts – See Section 200(c) above regarding securing proof.
1. Section 203 – Tags furnished to agents – This section implies that the state will distribute tags directly to agents, whereas that responsibility currently rests with the treasurers. Will the treasurers be relieved of the obligation associated with tags issued to agents, including auditing, remittances, and reporting? How will the state monitor independent agents to prevent fraud, theft, loss, etc.