



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 155

PRINTERS NO. 1211

PRIME SPONSOR: Greenleaf

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund; Dog Law Restricted Account	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 155, Printer's Number 1211, amends the Rabies Prevention and Control in Domestic Animals and Wildlife Act by making updates and providing for exemptions from vaccination. This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends the Rabies Prevention and Control in Domestic Animals and Wildlife Act (Act 181 of 1986) to provide several updates to the law, such as including new definitions, changes to the powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture, and changes to requirements for vaccination.

For example, one change provides rabies vaccination exemption for those dogs and cats for which a veterinarian has examined the animal and determines a vaccination would be medically contraindicated to vaccinate. A signed statement which includes the medical reasons for not providing a rabies vaccination must be provided to the animal owner or owners for the exemption to be effective. The animal must be re-examined annually to determine if the exemption status is still applicable. A copy of the exemption certificate shall be provided to the Department of Agriculture, Office of Dog Law Enforcement.

Animals must be vaccinated for rabies by or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian (for proof of vaccination certificate) upon leaving any of these kennels. The bill contains language which will permit private, commercial, non-profit, dealer and research kennels licensed under the Dog Law to obtain a limited certificate to vaccinate. The owner of each dog is required to provide proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination at the time the dog enters the boarding kennel.

The legislation also removes language requiring the Department of Agriculture to assist in establishing low-cost antirabies clinics and which establishes limited civil liability for veterinarians participating in such clinics.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this bill will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The administrative duties related to records management and rabies vaccination exemptions is expected to be covered under existing operations for the Office of Dog Law enforcement.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeffrey Clukey  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 11, 2013

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*