



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 746

PRINTER'S NO. 915

PRIME SPONSOR: Vogel

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund – Dog Law Restricted Account	See Fiscal Impact	see Fiscal Impact
General Fund – Judicial Augmentation Account	See Fiscal Impact	see Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** This bill makes changes to dog, kennel, and penalty fees contained within the Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982). This legislation would take effect in 90 days.

**ANALYSIS:** The bill amends Title 3 (Agriculture) to create Chapter 8 and make changes to the Dog Law, notably to dog and kennel licensing, advertising the sale of dogs, strengthen penalties for Dog Law violations, and improve customer service, public safety, and animal welfare. Specifically, the bill:

- Creates a statewide dog licensing platform
- Requires dogs to be licensed at three months of age or at the point of transfer to a new owner
- Increases annual and lifetime dog license fees
- Increases kennel fees
- Adds additional penalties and fines and increases violation fees
- Requires pet shops and kennels offering dogs for sale/adoption to display specific information including:
  - The dog's identity
  - Breeder location and state/federal license number
  - Documentation of inoculation, vaccination, and medical treatment
  - Bite history (if any)
- Requires all kennels to have an isolation plan for imported dogs from another state/country
- Allows the Department of Agriculture to revoke a kennel's license or refuse a kennel license application for individuals convicted of animal cruelty
- Requires dangerous dogs to be muzzled, leashed, and under physical restraint
  - Increases the annual registration fee from \$500 to \$1,000
  - Includes issuance of a seizure and destruction order
- Provides for the ability of the Department of Agriculture to increase dog license fees by up to \$2 in 2025 and up to \$1 in 2027

<b>Dog License Fee Changes</b>				
<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>			
<i>Individual Licenses</i>	<i>New Amt</i>		<i>Current Amt</i>	
<b>Annual</b>	<i>Neutered / Spayed</i>	<i>All Other</i>	<i>Neutered / Spayed</i>	<i>All Other</i>
All Male/Female dogs 3 months or older	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00
65 years of age or older or disabled	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
<b>Lifetime</b>	<i>Neutered / Spayed</i>	<i>All Other</i>	<i>Neutered / Spayed</i>	<i>All Other</i>
All Male/Female dogs 3 months or older	\$ 49.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00
65 years of age or older or disabled	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00

<b>Kennel Fee Changes</b>		
<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>New Amt</b>	<b>Current Amt</b>
<b>Non-Commercial Kennels</b>		
Class I (50 or fewer dogs)	\$ 100	\$ 75
Class II (51 to 100 dogs)	\$ 250	\$ 200
Class III (101 to 150 dogs)	\$ 375	\$ 300
Class IV (151 to 250 dogs)	\$ 500	\$ 400
Class V (251 to 500 dogs)	\$ 625	\$ 500
Class VI (more than 500 dogs)	\$ 950	\$ 750
<b>Boarding Kennels</b>		
Class I (1 to 10 dogs)	\$ 125	\$ 100
Class II (11 to 25 dogs)	\$ 200	\$ 150
Class III (26 or more dogs)	\$ 325	\$ 250
<b>Commercial Kennels</b>		
Class C-I (50 dogs or fewer)	\$ 100	\$ 75
Class C-II (51 to 100 dogs)	\$ 250	\$ 200
Class C-III (101 to 150 dogs)	\$ 375	\$ 300
Class C-IV (151 to 250 dogs)	\$ 500	\$ 400
Class C-V (251 to 500 dogs)	\$ 625	\$ 500
Class C-VI (more than 500 dogs)	\$ 950	\$ 750
<b>Nonprofit Kennel</b>	\$ 35	\$ 25

<b>Penalty Changes</b>				
<b>Violation</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>New Amt</b>	<b>Current Amt</b>
Civil	207(a.1)(6)	Failing to Update Kennel C-License	\$1,000 - \$5,000	\$500 - \$1,000
Civil	207(e)(1.2)	Advertising Req to Posses License	\$100	N/A
Criminal	201(c)	Unlicensed Dog	\$100 - \$500	\$50 - \$300
Criminal	903(b)(1)	First Offense - Summary	\$500 - \$1,000	\$100 - \$500
Criminal	903(b)(2)	Subsequent Offense - Misdemeanor	\$1,000 - \$5,000	\$500 - \$1,000

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation is estimated to generate \$3,615,000 annually in new revenue to the Commonwealth. A portion of the additional revenues would accrue in the Dog Law Restricted Account and a portion in the Judicial Augmentation Account. To determine the estimated new revenue, the following data was analyzed:

- Number and type of dog licenses issued between FY 2013/14 through FY 2022/23
- Number and type of kennel licenses issued in 2021 and 2022
- Prosecution counts of misdemeanors and citations issued for 2021 and 2022 and their relation to increase in penalty fees
- Dangerous dog registration fees included in the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Dog Law Annual reports

A breakdown of the components of the estimated new revenues are included below:

<b>Impact of Dog Law Fee Changes</b>		
<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>Dog Law Restricted Acct</b>	<b>Judicial Augmentation Acct</b>
<b>License/Registration Fees</b>		
Dog	\$ 3,085,000	
Kennel	\$ 155,000	
Dangerous Dog	\$ 110,000	
<b>Penalty Fees</b>		
Civil	40,000	
Criminal		\$ 225,000
<b>Subtotal Changes</b>	<b>\$ 3,390,000</b>	<b>\$ 225,000</b>
<b>Net Revenue Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>\$ 3,615,000</b>

The above revenue estimate, specifically the amount related to dog licenses, is lower than the forecast provided by the Department of Agriculture. The Department estimates that the impact of Dog Law changes is projected to be around \$3,765,000. The difference between the two projections is a function of a higher projected number of dog licenses issued, contained within the Department's forecast.

To create and operate a statewide dog licensing platform, the Department of Agriculture estimates that it will cost approximately \$500,000 to purchase software and information technology necessary for its operation.

Lastly, if the Department of Agriculture chooses to increase the annual dog law license fee amount, as authorized, by up to \$2 in 2025 and up to \$1 in 2027, dog licensing revenues will increase accordingly.

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**DATE:** October 18, 2023

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