

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1329

PRINTER'S NO. 2010

AMOUNT

\$135,000
Negligible

FUND

General
Dog Law Restricted Account

DATE INTRODUCED

November 9, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Dinninman

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, Nov. 9, 2011

Reported as amended, Dec. 14, 2011

First consideration, Dec. 14, 2011

Second consideration, Jan. 23, 2012

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Jan. 25, 2012

Re-reported as amended, March 13, 2012

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1329 amends the Animal Destruction Method Authorization Law (Act 83 of 1983) to require no animal be destroyed by unacceptable agents as published in the American Veterinary Medical Association's Guidelines on Euthanasia.

Defines "small domestic animals" as cats, dogs, rabbits, mice, rats, hamsters, ferrets, birds, reptiles and amphibians and requires sodium pentobarbital to be used exclusively for euthanizing these animals. Exclusions to this rule apply for the following instances: (1) destruction of dangerous domestic animals; (2) medical schools; (3) veterinary medical schools; (4) research institutions affiliated with a hospital or university; and, (5) a research facility inspected under the animal welfare act. The use of carbon monoxide as an agent is prohibited under any circumstance.

Provides for humane society organizations and animal shelters to apply to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine for a limited license to purchase, possess and administer drugs approved for euthanasia to destroy sick, unwanted or homeless small domestic animals. Conditions licensure on a staff member being licensed as a euthanasia technician.

Requires the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to adopt regulations regarding the licensure of euthanasia technicians. Applicants for the license must fulfill the following requirements: (1) meet eligibility requirements determined by the board; (2) demonstrate knowledge of potential hazards and display proper techniques; and, (3) successfully complete a euthanasia certification course approved by the board and administered by the National Animal Control Association, the American Humane Association, the Humane Society, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, or the University of Pennsylvania.

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Provides that for the purpose of enforcement, the State Board of Veterinary Medicine may authorize the Department of Agriculture to inspect and monitor the organizations and persons who euthanize animals on behalf of these organizations. Authorizes the Department to conduct inspections and to enforce the provisions contained in the legislation. Requires, upon request, that veterinarians, animal shelters or humane society organizations disclose all methods of euthanasia used.

Provides for penalties for violations of the provisions related to means and methods of destruction used at \$500 per violation day for the first offense and \$1,000 per violation day for the second and subsequent offense. Violations related to other provisions in the act carry a fine of \$350 per violation day for the first offense and \$700 per violation day for the second and subsequent offense.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 180 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate bill 1329 will cost the Commonwealth \$135,000 annually. It is estimated the Department of Agriculture will incur costs of approximately \$125,000 annually for salary and benefits equivalent to two full-time staff to perform its regulatory responsibilities under the act. This would include periodic inspections at locations where euthanasia may be performed such as veterinarians' offices, kennels, research facilities, humane societies and animal shelters and investigations. In addition, the State Board of Veterinary Medicine would incur additional costs of \$10,000 annually to develop and administer the provisions requiring licensing of humane societies, animal shelters and euthanasia technicians. Fines from penalties incurred under the act and deposited into the Dog Law Restricted account are estimated to be negligible.