

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 85

PRINTER NO. 63

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Dog Law Restricted Account

DATE INTRODUCED

January 24, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Phillips-Hill

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 85 amends Section 205 (Transfer of dog licenses or tags; other licensing requirements) and Section 217 (Service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State Police departments) of the Dog Law to expand license fee exemptions for service dogs and make technical changes.

Specifically, the legislation expands the license fee exemption to service dogs used in the performance of services by a police department, a fire department, rescue services and emergency medical services.

The legislation specifies that a license tag shall be issued without charge to a service dog. It also specifies that agencies seeking a license fee exemption must provide a letter on official letterhead with the license application providing evidence that the dog performs these services.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 85 will have no fiscal impact on revenues accruing to the Dog Law Restricted Account. The Department of Agriculture has indicated that it interprets the existing provisions in the Dog Law related to license fee exemptions for service dogs broadly and already provides exemptions for the service dogs that are specifically granted the exemption in Senate Bill 85.

For information purposes, an annual dog license is \$8.50, and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50.