

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 82

PRINTER NO. 1768

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Dog Law Restricted Account

DATE INTRODUCED

January 12, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Phillips-Hill

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 82 amends the Dog Law to expand license fee exemptions for service dogs, to establish service dog kennels, to eliminate the requirement for an interstate certification of veterinary inspection to board out-of-state dogs, to offer an option to the quarantine requirements for dogs imported into a kennel other than a boarding kennel and to make technical changes.

The legislation expands the license fee exemption to service dogs used for aid and service dogs used in the performance of services by a police department, a fire department, sheriff's office, rescue services and emergency medical services. It 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 defines a "service dog kennel" and excludes service dog kennels in the definition of commercial kennel. It also provides for a \$35 kennel license fee for a service dog kennel.

The legislation eliminates the requirement for a boarding kennel to require the owner of a dog entering the boarding kennel to have an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection accompany the dog if the following conditions are met: the dog is owned by a resident of a state that borders Pennsylvania; the dog is temporarily housed in the kennel for less than 30 consecutive days; the dog is privately owned and the owner can provide proof of ownership; and ownership of the dog does not transfer to another person and returns to the owner after the boarding period.

The legislation replaces provisions requiring a kennel that imports dogs from another state or country to have an isolation plan with language requiring such a kennel to have a plan of veterinary care approved by a veterinarian to reduce the possibility of disease transmission. It also requires that dogs imported from another state or country to be quarantined for 14 days unless the dog has a certification by a veterinarian that certain tests, treatments and vaccinations have been administered prior to entry into the state.

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In response to a court decision, the legislation makes technical changes to the section of the Dog Law that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to revoke a kennel license for licensees convicted of violations of cruelty to animals provisions of the Crimes Code.

The legislation makes technical changes to the definition of "certificate of vaccination" to reference the national rabies compendium and to correct a delegation of authority in current law. It also clarifies provisions regarding the transfer of a dog license when ownership is transferred from one person to another within the same county.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The provisions contained in Senate Bill 82 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Agriculture (department) indicates that it interprets existing service dog license fee exemptions broadly and already provides the exemptions that are specifically granted in this legislation.

Additionally, the department indicates that license fee revenues accruing to the Dog Law Restricted Account will not be impacted by the provisions establishing a new service dog kennel classification with a license fee of \$35 as the kennels that meet the definition of a service dog kennel are presently licensed as nonprofit kennels and pay the same \$35 license fee.