

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6548

BILL NUMBER: HB 1268

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 17, 2021

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Return of Lost Pets to Owners.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Hamilton

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Koch

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires an animal care facility to adopt policies and procedures that govern the return of lost or stray dogs and cats to the dog's or cat's owner. It also provides animal care policies and procedures that an animal care facility may include to return lost or stray dogs and cats to the dog's or cat's owner.

Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill requires that humane societies, animal control agencies, and governmental entities that operate an animal shelter or other animal impounding facility to adopt written policies and procedures related to reuniting owners with their lost or stray companion animal. Fulfilling this requirement may lead to a workload increase for facilities. These additional requirements may be fulfilled using the existing staff and resources of the facility.

Additionally, this bill requires a facility to offer owners the ability to retrieve a lost or stray companion animal on at least one weekend day per week and after 5:00 p.m. on at least one weekday per week. This bill does not require a facility to increase their total operating hours to fulfill this requirement and, therefore, may not cause an increase in operating expenses.

Additional Information: This bill requires facilities to adopt the following written policies and procedures:

- Screening the lost animal for specific identification items;
- Matching the lost animal with reports of lost or stray companion animals;
- Notifying the public within forty-eight hours of receiving a lost companion animal;
- Making a reasonable effort to notify an identified owner of an identified lost companion animal;
- Providing the public with general information about the facility; and
- Adopting requirements regarding euthanasia of lost companion animals.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Animal control agencies; governmental entities that operate an animal shelter or other animal impounding facility.

Information Sources:

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