

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 8 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Smith J., Whisnant, Barker
Nays: 0
Exc.: Shields, Stiegler
Prepared By: Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows court to remove all domestic animals from residence of person who has been convicted of unlawfully possessing domestic animals. Adds sexual assault and animal fighting offenses to offenses that bar possession of domestic animal for five years after conviction. Adds dog fighting and cockfighting to offenses that bar possession of domestic animal for 15 years after conviction. Designates unlawful possession a Class C misdemeanor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In addition to other penalties, a person convicted of animal abuse, neglect or abandonment may not possess a domestic animal for up to five years. Convictions for aggravated animal abuse or first degree animal abuse bar a person from possessing an animal for 15 years. However, other domestic animals may be present in the household. SB 299A authorizes a judge to order removal of domestic animals. In addition, SB 299A changes the penalty for unlawful possession of a domestic animal from an unclassified misdemeanor to a Class C misdemeanor, adds sexual assault and animal fighting to the offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for five years, and adds dog fighting and cockfighting to those offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for 15 years.