

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass

**Vote:** 9 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Whisnant, Barker

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Stiegler

**Prepared By:** Shannon Sivell, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Adds equine abandonment to crime of animal abandonment. Changes standard for abandonment from “continued care” to “minimum care.” Excludes equines from definition of domestic animal. Defines equines and adds hybrids under the definition of equines.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Programs available to assist equine owners with financial problems
- Cost of maintaining an equine

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** It is currently against the law to abandon a domestic animal at a location without providing for the animal’s continued care. Violation of this law is a Class B misdemeanor, with a maximum of six months imprisonment and a \$2,500 fine. Horses are defined as livestock and the animal abandonment law does not apply to them. SB 398A adds equine abandonment, defined as horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, hinnies or zebras or hybrids of any of those animals, to the crime of animal abandonment. SB 398A does not change the definition of livestock and horses are included in that definition. In addition, the standard of care for animal abandonment has been changed from failure to provide continued care for the animal to failure to provide minimum care. Minimum care is defined in statute.