

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

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

---

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Bonamici, Boquist, Whitsett, Prozanski

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Dingfelder

**Prepared By:** Anna Braun, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 2/12, 3/3

---

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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Whether this bill affects livestock
- Shortage of rendering plants

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes the words “continued care” to “minimum care” for the standard for animal abandonment. Excludes equines from definition of domestic animal. Adds hybrids under the definition of equines.

**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 the abandonment of equines, which are defined as horses, ponies, donkey’s, 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.