

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Close, Dingfelder, Kruse, Roblan, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/2, 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates offense of unlawful tethering as Class B violation if a person tethers a domestic animal in person's custody or control with a tether that is not a reasonable length, with a collar that pinches or chokes, tethers for more than 10 hours in a 24 hour period or more than 15 hours in a 24 hour period if tether is attached to a running line. Provides exceptions for domestic animals in the physical presence of owner, pursuant to campground or recreational area regulations, or engaged in licensed activity like hunting. Defines adequate bedding and adequate shelter for purposes of minimum care. Allows wire cage if animal is a bird. Adds tethering that results in serious injury or death as first degree animal neglect punishable as a Class A misdemeanor. Adds tethering that results in physical injury as second degree animal neglect punishable as a Class B misdemeanor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasonable length of tether
- Definition of domestic animal
- Wire floors for birds
- Trolley system

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes definition of adequate shelter to allow wire cages for birds.

BACKGROUND: Eighty percent of dog-related complaints to which law enforcement responds involve tethered dogs. In Multnomah County last year, of the nearly 700 reported cases of animal neglect and abuse, 106 were related to tethering and tethering violations. House Bill 2783 B would create the offense of unlawful tethering of domestic animal and establish such offenses as Class B violation. In addition, House Bill 2783 B defines what constitutes adequate bedding and adequate shelter for purposes of minimum care of a domestic animal. Currently, failure to provide minimum care of a domestic animal constitutes animal neglect. House Bill 2783 B adds tethering that results in serious physical injury or death as a Class A misdemeanor with a maximum \$6,250 fine and one year in prison, and tethering that results in physical injury as a Class B misdemeanor with a \$2,500 fine and up to six months in prison.