

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 04/10, 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Buehler, Evans, Gallegos, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Parrish, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Prepared By: Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits devocalization and/or declawing of cats or dogs, except under prescribed circumstances.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Medical necessity of declawing and devocalization

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) defines devocalization as an operation to sever or remove an animal's vocal cords or prevent the normal function of an animal's vocal cords. In the case of declawing for cats, the procedure is accomplished by amputating the last digit on the cat's front feet, leaving it incapable of extending its claws. Further, according to the HSUS, devocalized dogs and declawed cats can develop behavioral problems stemming from not being able to perform typical behaviors.

House Bill 3494-A bars declawing and devocalization of cats and dogs except in cases when it is medically necessary.