

HB 2500 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/20, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a private right of action to recover expenses incurred by an individual for veterinary care of an abused domestic animal against the person responsible for the abuse.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The definition of domestic animal does not include horses, however, it does include tigers
- Livestock intentionally excluded from the scope of the bill
- Provides right of action independent of any criminal prosecution

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires expenses incurred by veterinary care be reasonable. Prohibits a court from considering the availability of a private action in criminal restitution hearings.

BACKGROUND:

Domestic animal is defined as an animal, other than livestock or equines, that is owned or possessed by a person. The right of action created by this bill does not apply to equine or livestock. The existence of a criminal action is not required in order for an individual to file a civil claim under House Bill 2500.