

Senate Bill 103

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Transfers duty to prepare written animal emergency operations plan from Office of Emergency Management to State Department of Agriculture. Requires department to cooperate with Department of Human Services in developing plan.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to animal emergency operations planning; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 401.975 and 401.977.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. The duties, functions and powers of the Office of Emergency Management**
6 **relating to animal emergency operations plans are imposed upon, transferred to and vested**
7 **in the State Department of Agriculture.**

8 **SECTION 2.** ORS 401.975 is amended to read:

9 401.975. The Legislative Assembly finds that:

10 (1) During an evacuation after a major disaster or an emergency, many pet owners are reluctant
11 to leave their pets and are willing to risk their lives to protect their pets.

12 (2) Animals are important to their owners and the presence of an animal brings comfort to an
13 owner and may enhance recovery for an owner distressed over injury or damage caused by a major
14 disaster or an emergency.

15 (3) Significant loss of livestock as a result of a major disaster or an emergency would seriously
16 threaten the economy of Oregon. Therefore, a livestock emergency operations plan will ensure that
17 livestock are provided for during a major disaster or an emergency.

18 (4) It is essential that the **State Department of Agriculture, the Office of Emergency**
19 **Management and the Department of Human Services** [*Office of Emergency Management and the*
20 *State Department of Agriculture*] work together to develop emergency operations plans for animals
21 and livestock that provide for animals and livestock during a major disaster or an emergency.

22 **SECTION 3.** ORS 401.977 is amended to read:

23 401.977. (1) As used in this section:

24 (a) "Companion animal" means a domestic animal commonly kept as a household pet.

25 (b) "Service animal" means an animal that assists or performs tasks for a person with a sensory,
26 emotional, mental or physical disability.

27 (2) The [*Office of Emergency Management*] **State Department of Agriculture**, in cooperation
28 with the [*State Department of Agriculture*] **Office of Emergency Management, the Department**
29 **of Human Services** and local governments, shall prepare a written animal emergency operations
30 plan that provides for the evacuation, transport and temporary sheltering of companion animals and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 service animals during a major disaster or an emergency.

2 (3) The [office] **State Department of Agriculture**, in developing the plan, shall emphasize the
 3 protection of human life and shall consider:

4 (a) Allowing owners of service animals to be evacuated, transported and sheltered with their
 5 service animals;

6 (b) Establishing a sufficient number of evacuation shelters equipped to temporarily shelter
 7 companion animals and service animals in close proximity to a human sheltering facility;

8 (c) Allowing owners and their companion animals to be evacuated together whenever possible;

9 (d) Establishing an identification system to ensure that owners who are separated from their
 10 companion animals or service animals during an evacuation are provided with all information nec-
 11 essary to locate and reclaim their animals;

12 (e) Transporting companion animals or service animals, in cages or carriers that safely and
 13 securely confine the animals, in an impending major disaster or emergency;

14 (f) Recommending that animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary offices, boarding kennels,
 15 breeders, grooming facilities, animal testing facilities and any other entity that normally houses
 16 companion animals or service animals create evacuation plans for the animals housed at their fa-
 17 cilities;

18 (g) Establishing recommended minimum holding periods for companion animals or service ani-
 19 mals that are sheltered during a major disaster or an emergency; and

20 (h) Creating and promoting an educational campaign for owners of companion animals or service
 21 animals that will:

22 (A) Encourage owners to plan for and incorporate their animals in the owners' personal plans
 23 in the event of a major disaster or an emergency; and

24 (B) Inform owners of companion animals or service animals about the animal emergency oper-
 25 ations plan prepared under this section.

26 **SECTION 4. (1) Section 1 of this 2021 Act and the amendments to ORS 401.975 and 401.977**
 27 **by sections 2 and 3 of this 2021 Act become operative on July 1, 2022.**

28 **(2) The Office of Emergency Management, the State Department of Agriculture and the**
 29 **Department of Human Services may take any action before the operative date specified in**
 30 **subsection (1) of this section necessary to carry out the legislative policy expressed in sec-**
 31 **tion 1 of this 2021 Act.**

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