

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2009

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 6 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Davie's Law/Humane Euthanasia in Shelters.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Allred, Glazier, Harrell, and McElraft

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>
REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES					
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:	Local animal shelters				
EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 1, 2011 for section 4; January 1, 2011 for all other sections.				

BILL SUMMARY:

H.B. 6 amends G.S.19A-26.1 to specify that euthanasia of shelter animals must be performed by a licensed veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician administering sodium pentobarbital. In addition, it directs the Board of Agriculture to develop rules for the euthanasia of animals consistent with G.S. 19A-26.1. The bill also amends G.S. 130A-192, requiring that Animal Control Officers check each animal to determine if the owner can be identified by owner identification tags or microchip. If the animal must be euthanized, H.B. 6 limits euthanasia methods to those authorized by G.S.19A-26.1.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

H.B. 6 should not have any fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). Animal shelters are operated by county and city governments; DACS' Animal Welfare Service (AWS) does not operate any animal shelters. Thus, since there are no state shelters, there will be no costs to AWS associated with bringing shelters into compliance with the law.

Moreover, implementation of this bill does not require AWS to conduct any additional inspections of city or county shelters. Under the euthanasia rules now in effect, AWS must inspect the euthanasia practices of all city and county shelters. Under H.B. 6, AWS will have to inspect one euthanasia practice at each shelter instead of two; shelters can currently use sodium pentobarbital or carbon monoxide chambers for euthanasia.

This fiscal note estimates the cost to the State only. AWS noted the fact that city and county shelters could have increased expenses due to this bill; because of the variety of operating differences among city and county shelters, AWS and the Fiscal Research Division are unable to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill on those operators. However, AWS provided two examples of ways in which H.B. 6 could impact costs at local shelters, including the requirement to:

1. *Stop using carbon monoxide (CO) for euthanasia* – Euthanizing with sodium pentobarbital is more labor intensive than using CO. Though the new “euthanasia rules” require two adults be present when operating a CO chamber, the time spent in the immediate area surrounding the chamber can be minimal. Sodium pentobarbital will require that two adults be present at the death of each animal.
2. *Scan for a microchip when trying to identify an animal’s owner* –Not all shelters have the technology necessary to read every microchip available on the market. If reading microchips is required, many shelters will have to purchase a reader in order to comply with this law. AWS notes that even AWS does not have a reader that works for all microchips; AWS has had to borrow readers in the past to scan animals.

SOURCES OF DATA:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Lanier McRee

APPROVED BY: Marilyn Chism, Director
Fiscal Research Division

DATE: April 23rd, 2009



Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices