

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-6611

AN ACT CONCERNING ON-LINE DOG LICENSES FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Agriculture	Animal Population Control Account - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	90,000	91,250
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	21,410	21,945

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to provide and operate a new online dog licensing portal as an option for licensing dogs while leaving intact current law allowing residents to license dogs with town clerks, which results in fiscal impacts described below, beginning in FY 24. The bill also makes changes to various dog license

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

fees and how those revenues are handled, which will result in a revenue gain to various entities beginning in FY 24.

The bill would result in a cost to the state of at least \$111,410 in FY 24 and \$113,195 in FY 25 for the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to hire a processing technician but would be offset by a gain in revenue associated with both the increase in certain fees and an expected rise in the number of licensed dogs, since availability of an online system is expected to increase accessibility.

Costs to DoAg include: (1) staff costs of \$50,000 in FY 24 and \$51,250 in FY 25 to hire a new Processing Technician to review process dog licenses in the new system, review, and process applications in the Animal Population Control Program and troubleshoot e-portal user issues; and (2) associated expenses of \$40,000 annually for marketing for the online system and ongoing program supplies and maintenance. There would also be costs to the Office of the State Comptroller of \$21,410 in FY 24 and \$21,945 in FY 25 associated with the new position. There are also significant startup costs to the state associated with the new system.

The bill additionally is expected to result in an annual revenue gain to the General Fund, the animal population control account (APCA) administered by DoAg, and municipalities for three reasons. First, the availability of an online portal could increase the rate of compliance for dog licensing. Second, the bill increases the dog license fee, from either \$7 for fixed dogs and \$12 for an unneutered or unspayed dog, to \$15 per dog regardless of sterilization status (an increase of \$8 per fixed dog and \$3 for others). Third, there is a change to the APCA described below. The amount of revenue gain to all sources depends on the number of dogs that are licensed.

The average number of annual licenses over the past ten years has been approximately 210,000 dogs. It is expected that with increased availability of dog licensing, the total number of licensed dogs may increase but the scale of the increase is unknown.

The bill increases, from \$2 to \$3.75, the amount of the license fee that is deposited into the animal population control account (APCA) administered by DoAg. This increase would result in a revenue gain to the APCA depending on the number of dogs licensed. The account funds the Animal Population Control Program, which offers reduced cost sterilization and vaccination services for certain dogs and cats. The balance in the APCA is currently \$737,669.

By law, dog owners must keep on each dog's collar or harness a license tag, which they receive when licensing their dogs. The bill increases the fee for a replacement dog tag from \$0.50 to \$1. This is anticipated to result in a minimal revenue gain to municipalities, depending on the number of duplicate dog licenses issued and the cost of the tags.

The bill makes other minor changes that have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to changes in state employee salary and wages, and the number of dogs licensed through the new portal.