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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodriguez **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/30/14
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Domestic Violence Victims' Animals **SB** 187

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 187 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to CYFD to enhance the system of temporary care and housing of animals of victims of domestic violence.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriate \$100 thousand from the general fund to CYFD to enhance the system of temporary care and housing of animals of victims of domestic violence. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the fiscal FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Abuse or threatened abuse of pets is a common power and control tactic used by abusers; 71 percent of pet owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims (NCADV, AHA). Additionally, according to a study in 2004, up to 65 percent of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave (Carlisle-Frank, Frank and Nielson, 2004). In review of

literature, the American Humane Association reports that 68 percent of battered women reported violence occurred toward their animals and 87 percent of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women to psychologically control and coerce them. Pets may suffer unexplained injuries, health problems, permanent disabilities at the hands of abusers, or disappear from home.

Currently, CYFD does not oversee any programs that provide temporary care and housing for animals of victims of domestic violence. The agency reports that very few statewide domestic violence shelters have kennels for dogs and small animals or work with local animal shelters to house animals. It is unknown what capacity may be available from local animal shelters to assist in care of housing for animals of victims of domestic violence

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD only maintains performance measures focusing on the safety of domestic violence victims and offender treatment/intervention a program that does not include measures regarding animals.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The agency reports that any additional administrative duties associated with implementing the provisions of the bill can be absorbed by existing staff.

KK/ds