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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/07

SPONSOR  MJ Garcia  LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE  Commission on the Welfare of Animals Act  SB  559

ANALYST  Wilson

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$80.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Relates to SB 458 and HB 453

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 559 appropriates \$80,000 from the general fund to the RLD for expenditure in fiscal year 2008 to administer the Commission on the Welfare of Animals Act and to fund per diem and mileage for members of the commission on the welfare of animals.

The purpose of the Commission on the Welfare of Animals Act is to promote safe, healthy and clean living conditions for animals housed in animal shelters and to promote methods that reduce the number of unwanted, abandoned, stray, feral or otherwise homeless domestic animals in the state.

The bill creates the Commission on the Welfare of Animals that will operate under, and be administratively attached to, the RLD. In addition, the legislation grants the commission authority to enter into contracts for the operation of federal programs related to the welfare of animals

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$80,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

RLD believes the bill appropriation is a minimum amount to cover the expense of staffing, implementation of commission duties and per diem and mileage for nine commission members to attend at least six commission meetings a year. In order to carry out the recommendations and mandates of the legislation, RLD claims the appropriation needs to be a minimum of \$100,000.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Animal issues are human issues. By studying and improving the lives of animals, we also learn how to protect and improve the lives of the weakest members of our human society.

The commission shall:

- (1) stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and review of the welfare of animals in New Mexico and develop and implement programs aimed at improving animal welfare;
- (2) recommend methods of improving conditions at both public and private animal shelters and sanctuaries in the state and develop programs to enable shelters and sanctuaries to provide the highest level of animal welfare;
- (3) promote methods of limiting the number of unwanted, abandoned, stray, feral or otherwise homeless domestic animals in the state;
- (4) cooperate with and assist public and private entities dealing with the welfare of animals; and
- (5) conduct periodic conferences throughout the state to promote the welfare of animals and to acquire information about the needs and challenges of animals.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

RLD should be able to handle their administrative duties as part of their ongoing responsibilities.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

SB 458 and HB 453 create another board, the Animal Sheltering Services Board. Its mission will be to provide oversight and assistance for city- and county-operated or contracted animal shelters that are currently unregulated.