

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lechuga-Tena ORIGINAL DATE _____ LAST UPDATED _____ HM 70

SHORT TITLE Companion Animal Overpopulation & Welfare SB _____

ANALYST Liu

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$0.0 - \$3.0	\$0.0	\$0.0 - \$3.0	Nonrecurring	Animal Sheltering Board Operating Budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB55

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 70 requests the Regulation and Licensing Department to convene a working group of stakeholders to address recommendations for laws to reduce companion animal overpopulation and increase companion animal welfare in the state, including pet store bans and licensing of commercial animal breeders. The working group will include:

- the Animal Sheltering Board Chair;
- a representative from county and municipal animal shelters;
- a representative from a nonprofit humane society or animal rescue organization;
- a representative from an animal advocacy group;
- a representative of pet store owners;
- a member of the animal law section of the state bar; and
- one member of the public.

The bill requires the working group to report its findings and recommendations, including an estimate of the recommendations' fiscal impacts, to the appropriate interim legislative committee by August 1, 2016.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill does not state if members of the working group would receive per diem for their participation in this study. Possible expenditures could include per diem for the Animal Sheltering Board Chair or other costs associated with hosting meetings if the working group convenes at the Toney Anaya building. Estimated fiscal impacts to the Animal Sheltering Board operating budget could reach up to \$3,000, depending on how the working group is convened for this study.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Animal Sheltering Board conducted a feasibility study on funding low-income households for sterilizing, vaccinating, and spaying or neutering their companion animals. This report was prepared in response to Senate Memorial 36 of the 2011 regular legislative session. According to the report, in 2011 New Mexico's euthanasia agencies (most animal shelters) took in 118 thousand homeless cats and dogs. These agencies had a total annual budget of \$27 million and euthanized 55,000 cats and dogs. Animal euthanasia costs approximately \$225 per animal.

(<http://www.rld.state.nm.us/uploads/files/SM36%20Study%20Final%201-24-12%20FULL.pdf>)

RELATIONSHIP

This memorial relates to SB 55, which makes an appropriation to enhance the system of temporary care and housing for animals of victims of domestic violence.

SL/al/jle