

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 11-0078  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Steadman  
 Rep. Fischer

**Date:** January 12, 2011  
**Bill Status:** Senate Judiciary  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Jessika Shipley (303-866-3528)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF COSTS RELATED TO IMPOUNDED ANIMALS.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> September 1, 2011, assuming the General Assembly adjourns May 11, 2011, as scheduled and no referendum petition is filed.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

Current law requires the owner of an animal impounded because of alleged neglect or abuse or other illegal acts involving the animal to post a bond with the court to cover the costs associated with the animal's impoundment. The owner may request a hearing to determine whether the amount of the bond is fair and reasonable.

This bill expands the grounds for which an owner may request a hearing to include determining the question of probable cause for the impoundment and whether to release the animal to the impound agency for disposition if the owner elects not to pay the costs of caring for the animal. The hearing must be held within 30 days, but preferably within 10 days, of the request. Failure of the owner to pay the costs of caring for the animal at the time of the hearing will result in the forfeiture of the right to contest the costs of care and any ownership rights to the animal.

**State Expenditures**

This bill will impact the trial courts of the Judicial Branch. It is expected to increase the number and duration of hearings held concerning impounded animals. Additionally, the short time frame for holding these hearings may cause delays in scheduling other court business. However, the impact to the branch is expected to be minimal (approximately 200 additional hours of court time each year) and can be absorbed using existing appropriations.

**Departments Contacted**

Judicial