



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0590**Date:** February 7, 2011**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Hamner
Sen. Nicholson**Bill Status:** House Health and Environment**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING CRUELTY TO SERVICE ANIMALS.**Summary of Legislation**

The bill defines cruelty to a service animal. Under the bill, a service animal is an animal used in law enforcement work or an assistance dog used by a person with a disability. The intentional or knowing commission of eight specific acts, in addition to the existing scope of cruelty to animals, is included in the definition of cruelty to a service animal. A person convicted of cruelty to a service animal is required to pay restitution for veterinary bills and replacement costs if the animal is disabled or killed.

The bill takes effect August 10, 2011, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2011, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

Assessment

The bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact. Cruelty to service animals is not classified as a misdemeanor or felony for the purposes of criminal sanctions. Rather, the bill treats cruelty to service animals as an aggravating circumstance and in those cases authorizes the sanction of restitution in addition to any other penalties. There is no additional cost to state or local government because the existing framework for cruelty to animals and restitution is sufficient to handle any cases involving service animals.

Departments ContactedJudicial
Human ServicesCorrections
Law

Public Safety