


 Colorado *Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*

STATE and LOCAL FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0413**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Sonnenberg**Date:** January 29, 2013**Bill Status:** House Agriculture**Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

TITLE: CONCERNING A PROHIBITION ON THE IMPOUNDMENT OF LIVESTOCK WITHOUT A DETERMINATION BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN THAT THE IMPOUNDMENT IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE LIFE OF THE ANIMAL.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None.		
Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill changes animal cruelty statutes to require that livestock be inspected by a licensed veterinarian who certifies in writing that impoundment is necessary to preserve the life of an animal prior to a peace officer taking possession of the animal. If an animal is impounded and found by a licensed veterinarian to be near death, or if the owner consents, the animal may be euthanized without a court order.

State Expenditures

The Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies licenses veterinarians. The division will update its rules to reflect these changes. It may receive additional complaints as a result of the bill that may result in board action but this is expected to be very few in number. The fiscal note assumes these activities can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government Impact

Local law enforcement and animal control officers are responsible for enforcing animal cruelty laws. This bill requires an extra step in the process prior to impounding animals. This is not expected to significantly impact workload at the local level.

Departments Contacted

Agriculture

Regulatory Agencies