

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING LIABILITY REGARDING THE BEHAVIOR OF DOGS.

Prime Sponsors: Representative Stafford
Senator Hillman

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Summary of Amendments Made to the Bill After the 02/19/04 Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note was Prepared

None.

JBC Staff Concurrence with Legislative Council Fiscal Note

Concurs **Does Not Concur** **Updated**

Amendments/Appropriation Status

No appropriations clause is required.

Sponsor Amendments

Staff is unaware of any sponsor amendments.

Questions and Concerns

It should be noted that due to General Fund reductions, the Trial Courts are currently at 85 percent of full staffing, resulting in shortened court hours, reduced services to the public, delays in case processing, and reductions in accuracy and timeliness in data processing. It is anticipated that this bill will result in an increase in the number of civil filings; however, the number of those filings - and the associated costs - have not been estimated, and thus the fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. However, any bill that increases court filings without a corresponding increase in the Judicial Department's appropriation will exacerbate the effects of the current staffing shortage - and these effects will be compounded if there are multiple bills that take this approach.

JBC Staff Analysis

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