
DIGEST

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HB 466 Original

2017 Regular Session

Chaney

Abstract: Modifies provisions of law providing for the La. Animal Welfare Commission and the La. Animal Shelter Registry.

Present law provides for the La. Animal Welfare Commission (commission), which assists the governor's office of community programs with ensuring and promoting the proper treatment and well-being of animals by supporting local and municipal animal control efforts, making recommendations concerning the care and keeping of animals, and establishing the La. Animal Welfare Fund to be used solely to carry out the functions and duties of the commission.

Proposed law modifies present law by creating the La. Animal Control Advisory Task Force under the direction of the state veterinarian within the office of the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to ensure and promote the proper treatment and well-being of animals.

Proposed law specifies that the task force shall consist of five members appointed by the commissioner as follows: one member who is a small animal veterinarian, one member who is a director of a public animal control agency, one representative from a private animal shelter, one representative from the La. Animal Control Assoc., and one representative from the La. Veterinary Medical Assoc. Specifies that the members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Specifies that members must serve without compensation. Further requires the task force act in an advisory capacity to the state veterinarian and report activities periodically.

Proposed law empowers the state veterinarian to carry out its purpose, including but not limited to the following: support local and municipal animal control efforts; support law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty cases; make recommendations concerning the care and keeping of animals; coordinate a statewide pet database; formulate and implement proposals to deal with animal overpopulation; promulgate rules and regulations which may be adopted by parish and local authorities for the proper care and treatment of animals; inspect any animal impoundment facility for the purpose of making recommendations for improvement to those facilities and their operations to the appropriate governing authority under certain circumstances; and ability to request any animal control agency to produce public records pertaining to animal intake, adoption, and euthanasia.

Proposed law provides that if the department does not receive the necessary funds or receives insufficient monies to fund the program, the program will become inactive.

Present law provides for the La. Animal Shelter Registry, a voluntary animal shelter registry used by the commission to carry out its duties by requiring each parish to submit to the commission a list of all public animal shelters located within the parish's jurisdiction.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides for the La. Pet Registry. Requires the commission to establish and maintain a voluntary registry for animals, and provides that the current owner of any animal may register that animal with the commission. Further provides registration requirements, registration identification numbers, animal license tags and procedures for affixing the tag to the registered animal, notification of animal registration by the owner to the commission, a registration fee, directions for where the fees should be deposited, and where applications for registration and public notices pertaining to the registry must be provided.

Proposed law modifies present law by requiring the state veterinarian establish and maintain a voluntary registry for animals. Also, authorizes the current owner of any animal to register that animal.

(Amends R.S. 3:2364 and 2365; Repeals R.S. 3:2366)