

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR CROWE

AGRICULTURE/FOREST DEPT. Requests the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission to study the necessity of the seven-day notice requirement provided to governing authorities before inspecting animal impoundment facilities.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission to study the necessity of the seven-day notice requirement provided to governing authorities before inspecting animal impoundment facilities.

WHEREAS, the commission was created for the purpose of assisting the governor's office of community programs to ensure and promote the proper treatment and well-being of animals; and

WHEREAS, the commission's powers include the authority to inspect any animal impoundment facility for the purpose of making recommendations for improvements to the appropriate governing authority; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 3:2364(D)(9) requires a governing authority to provide the commission reasonable access to the facility, its records, and personnel within seven days of receipt of a written request; and

WHEREAS, the seven-day notice requirement may limit the ability of inspectors to evaluate the standard operating procedures of public animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of inspections is to verify that standard operating procedures are being carried out routinely to comply with state laws regulating shelter standards; and

1           WHEREAS, inspections may include the examination of facilities for chronic  
2 problems, such as rodent infestations or accumulations of waste over long periods of time;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, the commission provides invaluable recommendations for animal  
5 impoundment facilities and their everyday operations; and

6           WHEREAS, animal impoundment facilities may change their everyday routines  
7 during the seven-day waiting period before the inspection occurs; and

8           WHEREAS, the commission's membership includes both veterinarians and experts  
9 on animal housing that are uniquely qualified to objectively analyze the necessity of the  
10 notice requirement and make recommendations on an appropriate notice period; and

11           WHEREAS, removing the seven-day notice requirement may enhance the ability of  
12 inspectors to identify problem areas at public animal shelters and propose solutions; and

13           WHEREAS, the commission shall submit a written report of its findings with any  
14 specific proposals for legislation to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry,  
15 Aquaculture, and Rural Development on or before October 1, 2013.

16           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
17 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission to study the  
18 necessity of the seven-day notice requirement provided to governing authorities before  
19 inspecting animal impoundment facilities.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
21 chairman of the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Johnson.

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DIGEST

Crowe

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