

## Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1625

**House of Origin**     Introduced       Substitute       Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute       Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Orrock

**3. Committee:** Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

**4. Title:** Animal care; adequate shelter, exposure to heat or cold.

**5. Summary:** Provides that outdoor tethering of a companion animal does not meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate shelter, unless the animal is actively engaged in an agricultural or hunting activity, when tethering is conducted during a heat advisory or a severe weather warning. The bill provides that in order to meet the requirement that an animal be given adequate space a tether must be at least four times the length of the animal or 15 feet in length, whichever is greater, and not cause injury or pain, weigh more than one-tenth of the animal's body weight, or have weights or heavy objects attached to it. Current law requires that the tether be at least three times the length of the animal. The bill exempts agricultural animals from existing provisions and these added provisions related to tethering. The bill also authorizes any locality to adopt ordinances that are parallel to or more stringent than the state law regarding the care of companion animals.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as local animal control officers will be responsible for enforcing the provisions.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; localities.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.