



149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL NOTE

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**BILL:** SENATE BILL NO. 217  
**AS AMENDED BY:** SA 2  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Walsh  
**DESCRIPTION:** AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 AND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CRUELTY TO DOGS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE HUMANE HANDLING, CARE, AND TREATMENT OF DOGS.

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**Assumptions:**

1. This Act shall take effect upon signature of the Governor.
2. This Act seeks to amend Title 11 and Title 16 of the Delaware Code related to cruelty to dogs and defines the specifications for the humane handling, care and treatment of dogs.
3. This Act strengthens the restrictions on the tethering of dogs kept outside by requiring specific criteria in the practice of tethering including hours of tethering and temperatures in which it is unlawful to tether. A third or subsequent violation of the tethering requirements will result in a crime of cruelty to animals.
4. With the removal of the requirement of nighttime provisions, the Office of Animal Welfare anticipates the need for a 1.0 FTE Investigator I position to monitor compliance with regulations and the issuance of citations as appropriate.
5. The estimated State agency cost for the 1.0 FTE staff is \$56,446 (estimate includes salary, other employment costs (OEC's), and Health Insurance).
  - a. 10 month Salaries, OEC's and Health Insurance: \$47,038
  - b. Annualization Amount of position: \$9,408
  - c. 10 Month Contractual Services and Supplies assessment: \$10,588
  - d. Annualization Amount of Contractual Services and Supplies assessment: \$2,118
  - e. One-time costs for Supplies and Capital: \$1,638 and \$5,780

**Cost:**

Fiscal Year 2019: \$65,044  
Fiscal Year 2020: \$69,151  
Fiscal Year 2021: \$69,151

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