
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates a uniform determination of the fair market value to be paid to owners of certain animals killed by a dog. If such an animal is killed or injured by a dog, the amount of compensation is the fair market value of that animal on the date of its death. If the animal subject to claim is registered, or is eligible for registration, the amount of compensation is 125% of the fair market value of the animal on the date of death or injury. This claim also applies to any fetus that dies as the result of the attack. Fair market value is considered to be the average price that is paid for a healthy grade animal at a licensed livestock auction selected by the appropriate board of county commissioners. A board of county commissioners is responsible for making the final determination of the fair market value. Finally, the bill eliminates the role of township trustees in determining the value of the dead animal if the animal's owner disagrees with the dog warden's original finding.

Any claims made must be paid from the county's dog and kennel fund or from the county general fund, as determined by the board of county commissioners. Any county in which the current value of compensation given has generally been less than the fair market price requirement in the bill may experience increased costs. However, it is likely that any such difference would be minimal in nature, and any resulting expenditures from the county general fund or the dog and kennel fund would also be small.

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