Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

127 th General Assembly of Ohio

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
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BILL: **Am. H.B. 281** DATE: **April 29, 2008**

STATUS: **As Reported by Senate Agriculture** SPONSOR: **Rep. Schlichter**

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: **No — Minimal cost**

CONTENTS: **To provide for the uniform determination of the fair market value of certain animals killed or injured by dogs**

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2008	FY 2009	FUTURE YEARS
County General and Dog and Kennel Funds			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- The bill sets a uniform standard for compensation for certain animals killed or injured by dogs. Counties that generally compensate owners at a lower rate than that established in the bill may experience some minimal increase in costs. The extent of these new costs would depend upon how many and what types of animals are killed.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill creates a uniform determination of the fair market value to be paid to owners of certain animals killed or injured by dogs and establishes new authority for county commissioners in this process. In doing so, it removes the role of township trustees in reviewing dog claims. Overall, the bill could lead to minimal increases in compensation payments made from county general funds or dog and kennel funds.

Animals for which owners are eligible for compensation include horses, mules, sheep, cattle, swine, goats, domestic rabbits, and domestic fowl or poultry. Under the bill, the amount of compensation is determined by the fair market value of that animal on the date of its death or injury. 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 the death or injury. This same process applies to any fetus that dies as the result of the attack. The bill defines fair market value as the average price that is paid for a healthy grade animal at a licensed livestock auction selected by the appropriate board of county commissioners.

Injury claims are paid from a county's dog and kennel fund or, if insufficient moneys exist in that fund, 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 incur some increases in compensation costs. However, it is likely that any such difference would be small, and that any resulting increases in expenditures from county dog and kennel or general funds would be minimal.

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