



*Synopsis of House Committee Amendments**

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Legislative Service Commission

Sub. S.B. 221

124th General Assembly
(H. Criminal Justice)

Prohibits an officer or impounding agency from impounding a companion animal that is the subject of a violation of R.C. 959.131 in a shelter owned, operated, or controlled by a board of county commissioners unless the board, by resolution, authorizes the impoundment of companion animals in a shelter owned, operated, or controlled by that board and has executed, in the case when the officer is other than a dog warden or assistant dog warden, a contract specifying the terms and conditions of the impoundment.

Modifies the prohibitions relative to a custodian or a caretaker of a companion animal so that a person who confines or is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal is prohibited from negligently depriving the animal of necessary sustenance, confining the animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water, access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, or excessive direct sunlight, if it can reasonably be expected that the animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation, confinement, or impoundment and deletes the related prohibitions that were in the Senate version.

Expands the exceptions to the prohibitions in the bill to include the use of common training devices, if the companion animal is being treated in accordance with usual and commonly accepted practices for the training of animals and the administering of medicine to a companion animal that was properly prescribed by a veterinarian.

Specifies that if probable cause that the defendant is guilty of a violation of the bill's prohibitions involving a companion animal contained in R.C. 959.131 has previously been established in a judicial proceeding, the court must take notice that probable cause exists and must not require further proof of probable cause in other related hearings.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the House floor.

Defines "agent of a county humane society" and clarifies an agent's specific authority.

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