



Substitute Senate Bill No. 318

Public Act No. 26-112

AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Office of Victim Services, shall study the impact of the need for placement of companion animals on victims of domestic violence. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, the: (1) Existing resources available for victims of domestic violence to find temporary or permanent placements for a companion animal, (2) identification of one or more persons who may serve as a contact person for victims of domestic violence in the state who need to place their companion animal in the care of another person due to such circumstance, and (3) feasibility of establishing a phone number or other electronic communication line that is accessible twenty-four hours a day for victims of domestic violence in the state who need to place their companion animal in the care of another person due to such circumstance. Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit the findings and any associated recommendations concerning such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters related to the environment, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 22-26f of the 2026 supplement to the

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general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) The State Veterinarian may issue orders to prevent the spread of [contagious and infectious diseases] disease among animals and poultry and may protect the public from such diseases as may be transmissible to human beings, either directly or through the products of such animals.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall convene a working group within the Department of Agriculture to study the animal population control program, established pursuant to section 22-380g of the general statutes, and develop recommendations concerning such program, including, but not limited to, ways to augment and stabilize the funding of such program. Such working group shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the executive director of the Connecticut Humane Society, or the executive director's designee, (3) a representative from an animal welfare organization, as appointed by the commissioner, (4) a representative from the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, (5) a representative of an organization that represents animal control officers, and (6) any additional members, as deemed necessary by the commissioner. The commissioner, on or before January 1, 2027, shall submit the recommendations of such working group to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters related to the environment, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Governor's Action:

Approved June 4, 2026