

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DATCP 3/22/2010

LRB Number	09-0677/2	Introduction Number	SB-580	Estimate Type	Original
Description Animals taken into custody					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill makes several changes to the law affecting animals taken into custody by local officials. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer protection estimates that the only local government fiscal effect relates to custody of animals involved in dog fighting cases.

Under current law, in cases of dog fighting, local governments are required to hold on to the dogs until there is a resolution of the dog fighting case. This is unique to dog fighting cases. In all other violations of Chapter 951, Wisc. Stats., there are mechanisms for the disposition of the animals, prior to resolution of the case.

This bill provides the local units of government the same options in dog fighting cases that are already available to them in other situations of alleged violation of ch. 951.

The bill would reduce local government costs for housing and care of these animals, which can be significant because dog fighting cases are often prolonged. The amount saved is indeterminate and will vary with the number of cases and animals involved. (In the recent case of dog fighting in Dane County, the county estimates that it cost \$200,000 to house and feed the animals involved and that costs would have been significantly lower if other housing options were available.)

Long-Range Fiscal Implications