Reimbursable: Yes

Date of Hearing: May 3, 2023

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS Chris Holden, Chair AB 332 (Lee) – As Amended April 12, 2023

Policy Committee:	Business and Professions	Vote:	18 - 0

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

# SUMMARY:

Urgency: No

This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), if CDPH deems it necessary, to collect from each city, city and county, or county, specified data. This bill specifies the data to be collected as numbers of the following: (1) dogs and cats licensed; (2) dogs and cats received; (3) rabies vaccines administered; (4) dogs and cats discharged, and whether the animals were reclaimed by owner, adopted, euthanized, among other dispositions; (5) animal bites; and (6) animals quarantined due to rabies.

## FISCAL EFFECT:

CDPH estimates annual costs of \$100,000 to cover salary, benefits, equipment and operating expenses for personnel to manage collection of the required information from all local governing entities (General Fund).

By increasing the data collected from local governments, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates determines this bill constitutes a reimbursable state mandate, the state will be required to reimburse local governments for their costs to comply with this bill (General Fund). The dollar amount of combined costs for local governments to provide data to CDPH are not known, but are likely negligible.

## **COMMENTS**:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

The official state pet is the "Shelter Pet." AB 332 will help provide important data about shelter animals so that resources are better optimized to find more pets their forever homes.

State, local jurisdictions, and nonprofits invest hundreds of millions of dollars in our shelter system to save animals' lives. Yet the data these entities rely on to direct these resources is no longer available.

This transparency will ensure that the state and other entities are able to direct funding efficiently to shelters with the greatest need, while also giving policymakers a more complete picture of the pet overpopulation problem to make informed policy decisions. 2) **Background.** According to information provided by the author, CDPH stopped collecting rabies data from shelters in 2016. CDPH stated the reason for ceasing rabies data collection was:

[T]he epidemiology of rabies has transformed from a disease of chiefly domestic dogs to exclusively wildlife reservoirs (bats, skunks)... the role of domestic animals in rabies transmission risk, and the informative value of animal shelter data toward rabies control, has diminished significantly.

# 3) Related Legislation.

- a) AB 240 (Kalra) establishes a tax on dog and cat food, and it establishes the California Spay-Neuter Fund in the State Treasury. AB 240 is pending in Assembly Agriculture Committee.
- b) AB 595 (Essayli) requires an animal shelter, at least 72 hours before euthanizing any animal, to provide public notice, and it requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to conduct a study on animal shelter overcrowding and the feasibility of a statewide database of animals scheduled to be euthanized. AB 595 is pending on the suspense file in this committee.

# 4) Prior Legislation.

- a) AB 2723 (Holden), Chapter 549, Statutes of 2022, established additional requirements on public animal shelters related to microchip registration and the release of dogs and cats.
- b) AB 588 (Chen), Chapter 430, Statutes of 2019, required any shelter or rescue group in California, when adopting out a dog, to disclose the dog's bite history, if there is one.
- c) ACR 153 (Santiago), Chapter 72, Statutes of 2018, urged communities in California to implement policies that support the adoption of healthy cats and dogs from shelters.
- d) AB 2791 (Muratsuchi), Chapter 194, Statutes of 2018, permitted a puppy or kitten that is reasonably believed to be unowned and is impounded in a shelter to be immediately made available for release to a nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization before euthanasia.

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