
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2344 (Haney) - Animal abuse: forfeiture

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Francoia

Bill Summary: AB 2344 would establish procedures authorizing a court, in a criminal case, alleging animal cruelty offenses, to order forfeiture of an animal before final disposition of the case. By increasing duties on local prosecutors, this bill would impose a state mandated local program.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact: Minor to moderate workload costs to district attorneys to file forfeiture petitions and serve process on defendants. Costs will depend on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

Minor to moderate cost pressures on the courts to adjudicate new cases. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated \$70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Unknown, potentially significant cost savings to the courts as a result of a more efficient animal disposition process and likely significant savings to animal control agencies from reduced sheltering costs. Whether animal control agency savings may partially or fully offset district attorney mandate claims would be determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

Author Amendments: Specify that the seizing agency or prosecution shall provide the animal shelter in possession of the animal with any information necessary to comply, as specified.

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