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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### **AB 478 (Zbur) - Accessibility to emergency information and services: evacuations: pets**

**Version:** July 16, 2025

**Policy Vote:** G.O. 14 - 0, B., P. & E.D. 11  
- 0

**Urgency:** No

**Mandate:** Yes

**Hearing Date:** August 29, 2025

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** AB 478 requires a city or county, upon the next update to its emergency plan, to designate procedures for the rescue of household pets from areas subject to an evacuation order. AB 478 also prohibits household pets rescued from an evacuated area from being adopted out, euthanized, or transferred from a local animal control agency's or its in-state partner animal shelters' custody for 30 days, as specified.

### **\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE \*\*\*\*\***

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025**

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- The Office of Emergency Services (OES) reports annual ongoing General Fund cost pressures of approximately \$668,000 and three Emergency Services Coordinators to support each OES administrative response region (Inland, Coastal, and Southern). OES notes that regional staff are already responsible for coordinating animal-related resources; however, this bill will expand those duties. OES will need to deploy additional personnel to support animal needs and resource requests.
- Unknown, potentially significant reimbursable mandate costs (General Fund). To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that any of these provisions create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs.

#### **Author Amendments:**

- Specify that after the 30-day period, a rescued pet may not be euthanized if an animal rescue organization has previously notified the local animal control agency of their willingness to take custody of the pet and completes that transfer upon the conclusion of the 30-day period.

#### **Committee Amendments:**

- Strike requirements that a city or county's emergency plan designate procedures for a person, representative, or entity to be able to rescue a pet from an area subject to an evacuation order, to require instead a city or county's emergency plan to designate procedures for the rescue of a pet from an area subject to an evacuation order.

- Strike the requirement that a city or county's emergency plan designate a person to assist with evacuating pets during an emergency evacuation.
- Make conforming changes.

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