



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 104

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1282

Senate, March 18, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM QUARANTINE FOR CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS EXPOSED TO RABIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-359f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, the Commissioner of
4 Agriculture shall develop a waiver request process and form for the
5 owner, keeper or veterinarian for any animal that was attacked and that
6 may have been exposed to rabies as a result of such attack to request a
7 reduction of the requisite quarantine period for such animal from six
8 months to four months if such owner, keeper or veterinarian submits
9 proof with such waiver request that such animal was vaccinated for
10 rabies not more than ninety-six hours after such attack. Such waiver
11 request process and form shall be: (1) Posted on the Internet web site of
12 the Department of Agriculture, (2) made publicly available and
13 accessible, and (3) made known to veterinarians throughout the state by
14 said department.] The owner or keeper of any animal that was attacked

15 and that may have been exposed to rabies as a result of such attack shall
16 quarantine the animal for a minimum of four months. The owner or
17 keeper of the animal shall have such animal vaccinated against rabies as
18 soon as medically appropriate. Such quarantine shall be provided as
19 directed by a licensed veterinarian in this state or the State Veterinarian.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-359f
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ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes procedural changes for cats and dogs that have been attacked or potentially exposed to rabies and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1282*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM QUARANTINE FOR CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS EXPOSED TO RABIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the owner or keeper of an animal that was attacked and potentially exposed to rabies to have the animal (1) quarantined for at least four months and (2) vaccinated against rabies as soon as medically appropriate. The quarantine must be as directed by a licensed veterinarian or the state veterinarian. (Under current Connecticut practice, an animal must stay quarantined for at least six months.)

By law, violators of the quarantine or vaccination requirements are subject to a fine of at least \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both (CGS § 22-367).

The bill makes obsolete and eliminates a waiver request process that current law requires the agriculture commissioner to develop. This waiver process allows an animal's owner, keeper, or veterinarian to request a reduction in the requisite six-month quarantine period to four months if the person provides proof that the animal was vaccinated against rabies within 96 hours after the attack.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (02/28/2025)