

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-7—SB 1282

Environment Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act 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. (Previously, an animal had to stay quarantined for at least six months.)

By law, dog or cat owners and those maintaining a local or commercial kennel who violate 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 agriculture commissioner also has authority to impose civil penalties for violations in amounts up to \$2,500 for each violation and \$250 for each day a violation continues (CGS § 22-7).

The act makes obsolete and eliminates a waiver request process that prior law required the agriculture commissioner to develop. The waiver process allowed an animal's owner, keeper, or veterinarian to request a reduction in the six-month quarantine period to four months if the person provided proof that the animal was vaccinated against rabies within 96 hours after being attacked.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage