



SENATE BILL 74: Update Rabies Control Laws.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 10, 2017
Introduced by:	Sen. J. Davis	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Second Edition		

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 74 would require local health directors to use the guidelines issued by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians when deciding the proper control measures for a dog, cat, or ferret that has been exposed to rabies.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, an unvaccinated dog, cat, or ferret exposed to rabies must be either euthanized or quarantined for six months. Vaccinated pets exposed to rabies must be given a booster shot.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 74 would require local health directors to follow the most current guidelines issued by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians when determining the proper control measures for a dog, cat, or ferret exposed to rabies.

The most recent guidelines, issued March 1, 2016, state the proper control measures are:

- Animals with a current vaccine and animals that are overdue for a vaccine, but have documentation of previous vaccinations, should receive veterinary care, a rabies booster shot, and be kept under their owner's observation for 45 days.
- Unvaccinated animals should be euthanized; however, if the owner refuses to do so, they should receive immediate veterinary care and a rabies shot. Dogs and cats must be quarantined for four months, and ferrets must be quarantined for six months.
- Animals that are overdue for a vaccination and do not have any documentation of previous vaccinations can be treated as unvaccinated or undergo a prospective serological monitoring protocol to determine if the animal is demonstrating an adequate immune response

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective October 1, 2017.

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