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**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016**

Bill Number: H.533 Name of Bill: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/ Dept: Agriculture Author of Bill Review: Diane Bothfeld

Date of Bill Review: 5/25/16 Related Bills and Key Players \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Bill: (check one):  Upon Introduction  As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body  As passed by both

**Recommended Position:**

Support  Oppose  Remain Neutral  Support with modifications identified in #8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

**1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses. Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.**

Bill Addresses animal well being issues along with victim's rights.

**1. Agency of Agriculture would be a member of the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board - Agency should be there.**

**2. Clarifies when the Agency of Agriculture becomes involved in an investigation. Agency would like this clarification as right now it is vague and confusing for all parties involved in a particular investigation.**

*(13) determine what should appropriately constitute an enforcement action triggering the obligation of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to assist law enforcement pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 354(a).*

**3. and clarifies Agency's role during searches seizures and forfeitures.. Agency is already doing this.**

*§ 354. ENFORCEMENT; POSSESSION OF ABUSED ANIMAL; SEARCHES AND SEIZURES; FORFEITURE (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall be consulted prior to any enforcement action brought pursuant to this chapter which involves livestock and poultry. Law enforcement may consult with the Secretary in person or by electronic means, and the Secretary shall assist law enforcement in determining whether the practice, or animal condition, or both represent acceptable livestock or poultry husbandry practices.*

**2. Is there a need for this bill? Please explain why or why not.**

The Agency of Agriculture took part in stakeholder meetings this summer and provided input. Improved clarity of the involvement of the Agency of Agriculture in Animal wellbeing cases is needed.

**3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**

This will require time for our State Veterinarian to take part – salary and possibly travel – limited impact.

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to [Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov](mailto:Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov) & [Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)

4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?

More work for Public Safety than Agriculture.

5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)

Unknown

6. Other Stakeholders:

6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

May be supported by humane organizations and local animal control officers.

6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?

Agriculture has heard concerns from House Ag Committee and Dog Club 9breeders and trainers)

7. Rationale for recommendation: *Justify recommendation stated above.*

The agency is neutral – can live with our without this bill.

8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

None

9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?

*Yes this bill does create a new Board.*

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document:



Date: 5-26-16