

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **SB 73** SLS 10RS 21  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 22, 2010 8:26 AM	<b>Author:</b> HEITMEIER, DAVID
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b>	<b>Analyst:</b> Travis McIlwain
<b>Subject:</b> Euthanasia in animals	

ANIMALS EG SEE FISC NOTE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Prohibits the use of certain forms of euthanasia in animals. (gov sig)

Proposed legislation prohibits euthanasia by carbon monoxide gas chambers on cats and dogs beginning January 1, 2013. Proposed legislation also prohibits euthanasia by intracardiac injection on cats and dogs unless the animal is unconscious or rendered completely unconscious and insensitive to pain through the injection of an anesthetic.

EXPENDITURES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

REVENUES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

The proposed legislation could result in an indeterminable increase in local expenditures at various animal shelters across the state beginning in FY 13. However, as such shelters transition from gas chambers to lethal injection, there could be realized cost savings. According to the EBR Animal Shelter, the specific cost increases include the potential need for additional trained euthanasia technicians. Currently, in order to euthanize an animal via the gas chamber only 1 individual is required. However, euthanasia by lethal injection (sodium pentobarbital) requires 2 individuals both trained and certified by the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine. The increases that could occur as a result of this measure are directly attributable to the need for trained certified animal euthanasia technicians at local shelters and the costs incurred to certify and train current staff. To the extent the local animal shelter needs additional technicians due to proposed legislation, according to the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) the starting cost per hour for a certified technician is approximately \$10.00/hour. Such potential increases would be mitigated if the specific animal shelter has the necessary trained staff to comply with proposed law, which does not begin until January 1, 2015, or if such animal shelters are already complying with the proposed law, such as the East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Shelter.

Based upon actual 2007 cost and animal data from a municipal animal control agency in North Carolina, the Humane Society of the United States estimates the cost per animal for lethal injection is \$2.29, while the cost per animal for gas chamber is \$3.09 (over a 4 month period). These costs are based upon the following data: 2,430 dogs, 2,997 cats of which 15 animals euthanized per day. The variables utilized to calculate the chamber cost per animal include: \$10,800 for chamber acquisition (10-year useful life), \$500/year for routine chamber maintenance, \$0.32/animal tranquilizer cost per animal (tranquilizer, syringe), \$0.60/animal supply cost per animal (gas, gas cylinder), \$1.88/animal for labor costs. The variables utilized to calculate the lethal injection cost per animal include: \$0.12/animal for equipment (floor safe, table, electric clippers, restraint), \$0.79/animal for supply costs (sodium pentobarbital, syringe, needle), \$1.38/animal for labor costs.

Although studies indicate that the cost/animal to euthanize by lethal injection are less than the cost/animal to euthanize by gas chamber, local animal shelters will not realize such decreases until additional technicians are hired and the gas chamber expenditures are completely phased out. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change

House

6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease

*Robert E. Hosse*  
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**LFO Staff Director**

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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

According to the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine, it cost \$205 for an individual to take the certification course offered by the board. This course is currently only offered in August and only in Baton Rouge, which would require travel and lodging expenditures for those animal shelter personnel not within the Baton Rouge area. Other potential expenditures that would likely be incurred by some animal shelters (mainly rural communities) as a result of this measure would be: needed facility improvements, additional equipment and supplies as well as a new process that provides for drug record keeping.

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