
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 834 Original

2026 Regular Session

McMahan

Abstract: Authorizes any political subdivision of this state to designate an animal shelter to provide services for lost, stray, unowned, or at-large domestic animals. Requires hold periods, diligent owner notification, and continued possession, with the option or shelters acquire ownership of unclaimed animals.

Proposed law authorizes the political subdivision to designate an animal shelter to provide sheltering services for lost, stray, unowned, and at-large domestic animals within its jurisdiction. Provides that a designated animal shelter may be owned or operated by a political subdivision or private entity, a licensed veterinarian, or any other entity reasonably competent to provide sheltering services. Requires the shelter to comply with the minimum standards of care and operating requirements set forth in present law and any other applicable state or local law.

Proposed law authorizes a designated animal shelter to acquire ownership of animals under certain conditions. Requires a designated animal shelter to comply with all applicable state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances governing hold periods. Further requires a hold period of at least 72 hours only if no hold period is established by a parish or municipality.

Proposed law requires a designated shelter during the hold period to make diligent efforts to identify and notify the owner, including scanning for a microchip at least twice 24 hours apart and maintaining records. Further requires the shelter to maintain continuous or constructive possession and to make the animal or its photograph and description available for public viewing. Additionally, requires fosters to return the animal to the shelter upon request unless the hold period ends or ownership is transferred to them. Provides that if the animal remains unclaimed after the hold period and notification efforts, the shelter acquires ownership and may transfer it to another person or entity.

Proposed law clarifies that no governmental entity is required to designate an animal shelter under proposed law, nor does it affect provisions of present law allowing shelters to acquire immediate ownership of animals by abandonment, transfer, relinquishment, or other lawful means.

Proposed law restricts liability against governmental entities, designated animal shelters, officers, and employees for acquiring or permitting animals to be fostered.

(Adds R.S. 3:2467)