

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Deb Chroniak 271-1403

HB 290, relative to rabies vaccination protocols for companion animals.

Hearing Date: April 19, 2017

Time Opened: 9:51 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:55 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Reagan, Gannon, Soucy and Woodburn

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill makes the rabies vaccination protocols for companion animals consistent with national standards.

This bill was requested by the state veterinarian.

Sponsors:

Rep. J. Belanger

Rep. Fraser

Rep. F. McCarthy

Rep. McConnell

Sen. Gray

Sen. Reagan

Who supports the bill: Representative Jim Belanger, Hillsborough 27; Lindsay Hammrick, Humane Society of the United States; Will Anderson, Concord, Self

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral to the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Belanger:

- Introduced HB 290.

Lindsay Hammrick

- Bill takes into consideration new recommendations from the Association of Public Health Veterinarians to reduce the length of rabies quarantine from six months to four months.
- Bill has the support of the New Hampshire Veterinary and Medical Association, New Hampshire Animal Control Association, and the New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations (Animal Shelter Coalition). This bill assists in decreasing the length of stay for animals held in quarantine at the state's animal shelter, as well as the Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA.

Senator Gannon asked about the incubation length for rabies. Ms. Hammrick

stated if an animal is bitten by a possible rabies vector, and you have the animal, the quarantine is 10 days. In situations where animals have been bitten, and you are not aware of the origin of that bite, rabies can incubate for up to six months. That is why the original quarantine period was six months. The Association of Public Health Veterinarians has found the incubation period is now four months.

- Animals that typically come into an animal shelter can come in with a wound and they are not sure where the wound was caused, you would want to quarantine the animal. Protocols were changed country-wide.

- Massachusetts passed this exact protocol last year and it has been implemented.

Senator Woodburn asked about a clarification on companion animals meaning any pet. Ms. Hammrick stated that the rabies protocol applies to cats, dogs, and ferrets in the State of New Hampshire.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: No one

Future Action: Ought to Pass

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 20, 2017

[file: HB 290-F report]