

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: March 6, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Rabies Vaccination for Ferrets

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Luken</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires that all ferrets four months of age and older be vaccinated for rabies, with some exemptions for the health of the animal. This bill requires and lists the details of a rabies vaccination certificate. Ferrets vaccinated according to this act will be quarantined when deemed necessary by the Department of Health. This bill provides a penalty for violation of this section, and does not limit municipalities or counties from enacting similar or more stringent provisions for rabies control.

This bill creates section 828.35, Florida Statutes.

This bill provides an effective date of January 1 of the year following the year it is enacted.

II. Present Situation:

Ferrets are not currently required to be vaccinated for rabies. The only domestic animals required to be vaccinated against rabies are dogs and cats.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill would require that all ferrets four months of age or older be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian at the expense of the owner. An exemption from the vaccination is permitted if a veterinarian certifies in writing that the vaccination would endanger the animal's health, but the exempted animal would be required to be vaccinated as soon as its health permits. The veterinarian that administers the vaccination must provide the animal's owner and the animal control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate containing information regarding the animal,

the veterinarian administering the vaccine, the owner, the vaccine, and the administration of the vaccine.

This bill provides that beginning March 1 following the effective date that each ferret vaccinated will be quarantined, when necessary, according to the rules of the Department of Health. This bill provides that a violation of this act is a civil infraction, punishable as provided in s. 828.27(2), F.S. This bill does not limit municipalities or counties from enacting additional or more stringent requirements for rabies control.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Ferret owners would be required to vaccinate their ferrets at their own expense.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The animal control authority would have to record the vaccination of all ferrets in the locality. There is limited documentation on the number of ferrets in the state, however, it is not likely to be a large number. As local animal control authorities already handle the documentation for the rabies vaccinations of dogs and cats, this should not be a significant economic burden on local animal control authorities.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
