

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4225

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2018

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4225.

This bill would clarify the effective date of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.1 et al.) and revise the effective date of several sections of that law. That 2017 law revised the way in which animal cruelty law is enforced in the State by, among other things, transferring the power of humane law enforcement from the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) to the county prosecutor in each county, and requiring the designation of a municipal humane law enforcement officer in each municipality with an existing police department.

Specifically, the bill, would delay the effective dates of two sections (6 and 32) of P.L.2017, c.331 from the first day of the seventh month after the date of enactment of P.L.2017, c.331 (i.e., August 1, 2018) to the first day of the 13th month after that enactment date (i.e., February 1, 2019). The date of enactment of P.L.2017, c.331 was January 16, 2018.

In addition, under this bill, sections 25 through 28 of P.L.2017, c.331 would continue to have the effective date of May 1, 2018 (thus, they have already taken effect and would continue to be in effect under the bill). Section 29 (which pertains to applications for designation as a humane law enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals) of P.L.2017, c.331 would take effect on the first day of the seventh month after the date of enactment of P.L.2017, c.331 (i.e., August 1, 2018), section 35 (which repeals certain sections of existing law concerning the NJSPCA) would take effect on August 1, 2018, and the remainder of P.L.2017, c.331 would continue to have the existing effective date of January 16, 2018. Finally, the bill would change the date of the repeal of section 8 of P.L.1997, c.247 (C.4:19-15.16c) from August 1, 2018 to February 1, 2019.

Thus, to summarize, under the bill, the revised effective dates for the various sections of P.L.2017, c.331 would be as follows, listed in chronological order of when they already took effect or will take effect in the future because of this bill:

Section 33 (which prohibits the NJSPCA from taking certain actions with regard to the charters of county societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and provides that the act should not

be construed to require county societies to surrender any of their assets) took effect on January 16, 2018, and would remain in effect under the bill.

Section 34 (which pertains to certain responsibilities of the Attorney General under the act) of P.L.2017, c.331 took effect on January 16, 2018, and would remain in effect under the bill.

Sections 25 (which pertains to municipal responsibilities under the act), 26 (which pertains to applications for designation as a municipal humane law enforcement officer), 27 (which pertains to continuing eligibility of former humane law enforcement officers or agents), and 28 (which pertains to county prosecutor responsibilities under the act) of P.L.2017, c.331 took effect on May 1, 2018, and would remain in effect under the bill.

Section 29 (which pertains to applications for designation as a humane law enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals) of P.L.2017, c.331 would take effect on August 1, 2018.

Section 35 (which repeals certain sections of existing law concerning the NJSPCA) of P.L.2017, c.331 would continue under this bill to take effect on August 1, 2018.

Sections 1 through 5 and sections 7 through 24, 30, and 31 of P.L.2017, c.331 would continue under this bill to take effect on August 1, 2018.

Section 6 (which pertains to the appointment of certified animal control officers) of P.L.2017, c.331 and section 32 (which pertains to county societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals) of P.L.2017, c.331 would take effect on February 1, 2019.

Finally, the bill, would change the date of the repeal of section 8 of P.L.1997, c.247 (C.4:19-15.16c) from August 1, 2018 to February 1, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.