

# Prince George's County Council

## Agenda Item Summary

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**Meeting Date:** 11/23/2004  
**Reference No.:** CB-085-2004  
**Draft No.:** 1  
**Proposer(s):** County Executive  
**Sponsor(s):** Dernoga, Dean, Exum, Bland, Knotts  
**Item Title:** An Act exempting licensing fees for certain individuals and adding a provision related to rabies vaccination reporting by veterinarians

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**Drafter:** Ann Bentley, DER  
**Resource Personnel:** Rodney Taylor, DER

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### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

<b>Date Presented:</b>	9/28/2004	<b>Executive Action:</b>	12/8/2004 S
<b>Committee Referral:</b>	9/28/2004 - HEHS	<b>Effective Date:</b>	1/24/2005

**Committee Action:** 10/27/2004 - FAV

**Date Introduced:** 11/1/2004  
**Public Hearing:** 11/23/2004 - 10:00 AM

**Council Action (1)** 11/23/2004 - ENACTED  
**Council Votes:** MB:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, DCH:A, TH:-, TK:A, DP:A  
**Pass/Fail:** P  
**Remarks:**

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### AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

03-146, 03-186

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Date 10/27/2004**

Committee Vote: Favorable, 3-0, (In favor Council Members Exum, Bland and Hendershot).

Staff summarized the legislation and referral comments that were received. CB-85-2004 amends Subtitle 3, Division 5, Licenses and Standards, and Subtitle 3, Division 7. It will add an additional category to the licensing fee exemptions. Residents age 65 and over will not have to pay pet licensing fees as long as their pets have been spayed or neutered and up to date on their rabies shots. The exemption will apply to a maximum of two (2) pets. The change to Subtitle 3, Division 7, Rabies Control, will add a requirement for veterinarians to provide the County with copies of the rabies vaccination certificates for animals they have inoculated who live in the County. Veterinarians will provide the copies on a monthly basis. This provision will allow the Animal Management Division to verify and encourage licensing compliance for those animals that have been vaccinated but not licensed.

The Associate Director of the Animal Management Division indicated that some seniors live on a fixed income and often do not license their pets, or do not have a pet because of the expense of caring for one. Some grant funding will be available to assist seniors with having their pets spayed or neutered.

The Associate Director further indicated that approximately 50% of the citizens that retrieve their pets do not obtain a license. In many cases the citizens aren't aware that a license is required. The proper licensing being in place will cut down on the number of dogs being impounded. It was suggested that in order to cut down on the amount of paper being handled, that the veterinarians be allowed to electronically transmit copies of the vaccination certificates.

The Office of Law finds the bill to be in proper legislative form, and the Office of Audits and Investigations determined that there may be a negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-85-2004. The negative impact would stem from the exemption of licensing fees and any associated revenues.

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:**

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This legislation proposes to exempt residents 65 and older from pet licensing fees for a maximum of two (2) pets if the pets have been spayed and neutered and have received rabies shots. The bill also adds a provision requiring veterinarians in the County to provide copies of all rabies vaccination certificates to the Animal Management Division. This will enable the Animal Management Division to determine whether vaccinated pets have been licensed.

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**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**

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**INCLUSION FILES:**

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