



April 7, 2026

**POLICY ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**TO:** Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (TIEE) Committee

**THRU:** Lavinia Baxter *LB*  
Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

**FROM:** Alex Hirtle *AH*  
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

**RE:** Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement  
**CB-025-2025** Responsible Pet Ownership Act

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**CB-025-2026** (*proposed by:* Council Member Olson)

Referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (TIEE) Committee

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**AN ACT CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP ACT** for the purpose of providing for a certain recordkeeping requirement; providing for a certain licensing ban; providing for certain licensing restrictions; and generally regarding responsible pet ownership.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**Direct Impact**

*Expenditures:* Nominal.

*Revenues:* Possible slight decrease in revenues.

**Indirect Impact**

Potentially favorable.

## **Legislative Summary**

CB-025-2026 was introduced on March 24, 2026, and was referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (TIEE) Committee. This bill provides for enhanced recordkeeping requirements by requiring the Animal Control Officer/Administrator to transmit a list of all known dangerous animals in the County to the Council annually. It also prohibits an owner or custodian, who has, or previously had violated Section(s) 3-101 (a) (33), 3-136, or 3-137 (these are Dangerous Animal definition, Dangerous Animal policy and practice, and Dangerous Animal restrictions, respectively) from obtaining a license for animals.

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## **Current Law/Background:**

The legislation refers to Subtitle 3 (Animal Control), Sections 3-136 and 3-142. The Council passed extensive legislation on Animal Control, largely pertaining to Dangerous Animals and Potential Dangerous Animals (CB-097-2025) which revised definitions, increased penalties, expanded licensing and other requirements, as well as lifted the County ban on pit bull terriers under certain circumstances and conditions. However, there were no specific license prohibitions in that legislation on animal owners or custodians who had violated policies, practices, or restrictions that CB -097-2025 mandated.

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## **Resource Personnel:**

- Kathy Canning, Legislative Officer
  - Julio Murillo, Chief of Staff (District 3)
  - Dr. Samuel Moki, Director, Department of the Environment
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## **Discussion/Policy Analysis:**

The Council reevaluated the County-wide pit-bull terrier ban in 2025 and passed extensive legislation which revised definitions, increased penalties, expanded licensing and other requirements for Dangerous Animals as well as Potentially Dangerous Animals. The legislation also lifted the County ban on pit bull terriers, under certain circumstances and conditions. However, this legislation did not specifically address animal owners or custodians of pets who were violating or had violated the mandated policies and/or restrictions that had been placed on these designated types of animals.

Within the County, there have been unfortunate incidents where a Dangerous Animal or Potentially Dangerous Animal has acted in an aggressive manner and caused harm to a person or another animal. In some cases, the aggressive pet had an owner/custodian that was in violation of

the Animal Control section of the Code. This legislation enhances the Code in mandating that pet and animal owners and/or custodians cannot obtain a license for a pet or animal within the County if they are in violation of said sections of the Code, which includes the definition of a dangerous/potentially dangerous dog, County policies and practices related to dangerous/potentially dangerous dogs, and the stated restrictions for such animals.

Many states and jurisdictions prohibit ownership of animals, by license, if they violate current animal control statutes. For example, the State of California recognizes any violation of a potentially dangerous dog can provide that a County or municipality (where the owner lives) the means to be fined and prohibit ownership of a dog for up to three (3) years.<sup>1</sup>

This legislation requires that the County's Animal Control Director/Administer keep record of all known dangerous animals in the County, and transmit that list to the Council annually. It would be prudent for the Council to review this list for any trends that may compromise the public safety of its citizens in any way.

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**Fiscal Impact:**

- *Direct Impact*

Adoption of CB-025-2026 should only have a nominal fiscal impact on the County by the mandated administrative duties cited in the legislation. Additionally, depending on the number of pet/animal owners that are recognized as violators within the Animal Control Code and are prohibited from obtaining a pet license, this could reduce the overall revenue from license fees.

- *Indirect Impact*

Adoption of CB-025-2026 should have a favorable indirect impact by providing a safer environment for the County's residents as well as other animals.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.animallaw.info/topic/state-dangerous-dog-laws>

**Policy Implementation Resource/Project Timeline:**

*Legislative Initiative*

Milestone 1 (May 2026) – legislation passed and signed by County Executive.

Milestone 2 (May/June 2026) – Animal Control Services implements administrative process of the legislation.

Milestone 3 (July/August 2026) – 45 days after becoming law, Bill takes effect.

*Disclaimer - Relative timeline based on PAFI Analyst. DPIE did not respond at the time of report completion.*

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**Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:**

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

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If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach me via phone or email.