Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 1/30/2026 10:20 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB792 **Patron:** Stanley
Bill Title: Pet shops; sale of puppy mill dogs prohibited; civil penalty.

Bill Summary: Makes it unlawful for any pet shop to knowingly sell, offer for sale, or transfer any puppy mill dog, as defined in the bill. Any pet shop violating the provisions of the bill is subject to a civil penalty of $2,000 per dog offered for sale, sold, or transferred.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No. **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Law (OAG); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact from this legislation to VDACS would be absorbable within current resources. Any fiscal impact this bill may have on the OAG is unknown.

Fiscal Analysis: This statement is preliminary. Under § 3.2-6511.1 of the Code of Virginia, pet shops are required to procure dogs from humane societies, private or public animal shelters, or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed breeders that meet certain inspection results. All of the 17 inspected pet shops in Virginia that sell dogs and cats obtain their dogs from USDA licensed breeders that meet the requirements in § 3.2-6511.1, Code of Virginia. Under the Code, local law enforcement and animal control officers are responsible for inspecting commercial dog breeders, defined as a breeder that maintains more than 29 breeding females.

Section 3.2-6564, Code of Virginia, authorizes both VDACS and local law enforcement to investigate complaints of any violation of the law. However, as VDACS routinely inspects pet shops for compliance with the law and associated regulations, VDACS anticipates bearing the primary enforcement responsibility for this bill's provisions.

VDACS anticipates being able to absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this legislation and does not anticipate any potential revenue to be derived from civil penalties. A civil penalty of $2,000 per dog offered for sale, sold, or transferred in violation of this bill is to be recovered by the OAG and support VDACS's responsibilities under the provisions of this bill. Any impact to the OAG is unknown.

Other: None.