

HB 420 -- Impoundment of Animals

Sponsor: Viebrock

Currently, any neglected or abused animal may be impounded. This bill prohibits a farm animal weighing more than 50 pounds from being impounded until a district state veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture has examined the animal and determined the animal to be in imminent danger of loss of life or has determined that the condition or conditions deemed to be in violation cannot reasonably be rectified before the disposition hearing. Any animal not impounded must be quarantined. If before the disposition hearing, reasonable attempts to correct the condition as instructed by the veterinarian have not been made as verified during a required follow-up visit by the state veterinarian, the court may impound or dispose of the farm animal.

If an abused or neglected farm animal in the possession of a caregiver is impounded, the authority having custody of the animal is required to make a diligent effort to notify the owner in writing that the animal has been impounded.