

Date of Hearing: May 8, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 486 (Limón) – As Amended April 30, 2019

Policy Committee: Governmental Organization

Vote: 17 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a city or county that requires a kennel license or permit within its jurisdiction to require, as condition for obtaining that license or permit, the kennel owner to submit an animal natural disaster evacuation plan.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Likely significant costs to local governments to develop new standards on the type of evacuation plan to be collected and to develop record-keeping processes. These costs may not be reimbursable because a local agency has the authority to levy service charges sufficient to pay for this new activity. However, the Commission on State Mandates would ultimately make decision on whether these new costs are state reimbursable.
- 2) Unknown, and possibly significant, General Fund costs to the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide technical assistance and guidance to local agencies on animal evacuation plans. For example, Cal OES, through the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES), would likely develop a model animal evacuation plan as part of the operational guidance provided to affected cities.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, AB 486 will help ensure local governments have taken necessary steps to protect animals in the event of a disaster. The author points to the 2018 fires in Southern California as an example of why this bill is needed: the Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control had over 700 animals in their care during those fires.
- 2) **CARES.** CARES, a joint effort between the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), provides operational guidance to assist with animal care and control during a natural disaster or emergency. CARES provides resources, such as pet preparedness tips, shelter information and model alerts designed to help organize resources and operations around animal safety.

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