

SF1935 - 0 - Elective Declawing of Cats Prohibited

Chief Author: **Zaynab Mohamed**
 Committee: **Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, And Rural Development**
 Date Completed: **3/14/2025 7:55:45 AM**
 Lead Agency: **Supreme Court**
 Other Agencies:
 Attorney General

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
State Total						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		Biennium			Biennium	
		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total		-	-	-	-	-

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Susan Nelson **Date:** 3/14/2025 7:55:45 AM
Phone: 651-296-6054 **Email:** susan.nelson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

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 Committee: **Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, And Rural Development**
 Date Completed: **3/14/2025 7:55:45 AM**
 Agency: **Supreme Court**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

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 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Susan Nelson **Date:** 3/11/2025 1:31:56 PM
Phone: 651-296-6054 **Email:** susan.nelson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total			-		-

Bill Description

HF1857-0 (the "bill") establishes a new statute under chapter 343 ("Prevention of Cruelty to Animals") to prohibit a person from performing surgical claw removal, declawing, or a tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise alter a cat's toes, claws, or paws in a manner that prevents or impairs the normal function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws. This prohibition does not apply to procedures performed solely for a therapeutic purpose.

The bill provides any person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for the first violation, \$1,000 for the second violation, and \$2,500 for the third and any subsequent violation. Civil penalties may be recovered by a civil action brought by the county attorney or the attorney general in the name of the state.

Assumptions

It is assumed that the number of case filings in district court will increase because the bill creates a new cause of action. The average number of civil actions that may be filed by the county attorney or the attorney general because of this bill is unknown and cannot reasonably be estimated.

The civil filing fee in Minn. Stat. § 357.021 of \$285 will apply to cases filed in the District Court; the amount of the county law library fee will depend on the county in which the case is filed. The fees will be paid by the county attorney or the attorney general. Any filing fee revenue or civil penalties collected under this bill will result in an increase to the state general fund.

As the number of cases and repeat offenders is unknown and cannot be reasonably estimated, the estimated impact on total filing fees and civil penalties received by the Minnesota Judicial Branch cannot be estimated. It is assumed that there will not be a significant increase in filings or filing fee revenue.

It is assumed that this bill will not result in an increase in the number of judges or staff needed to process cases.

It is assumed that there will be an increase in appellate court cases but the increase will not require an additional three-judge panel.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

The bill is not anticipated to have a significant fiscal impact.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Agency Contact:

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Callie Lehman

Phone: 651-297-7579

Date: 3/11/2025 9:32:57 AM

Email: callie.lehman@courts.state.mn.us

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Chief Author: **Zaynab Mohamed**
 Committee: **Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, And Rural Development**
 Date Completed: **3/14/2025 7:55:45 AM**
 Agency: **Attorney General**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings) Dollars in Thousands	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Chloe Burns **Date:** 3/13/2025 10:30:44 PM
Phone: 651-297-1423 **Email:** chloe.burns@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

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State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

HF1857 proposes defining an additional act of animal cruelty within Minnesota Statutes Chapter 343, prohibiting electively performing surgical claw removal, declawing, or a tendonectomy (343.256, subdivision 2) absent medical necessity, and imposing a civil penalty for such conduct.

Assumptions

We assume that the Board of Veterinary Medicine would consult with an Assistant Attorney General on its expanded enforcement authority, as well as on reviewing and responding to complaints regarding veterinarians declawing cats in violation of HF1857. Litigation costs are difficult to estimate, but currently Board of Veterinary Medicine resolves most complaints without proceeding to a contested case hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The Attorney General's Office assumes the extent to which the Board would consult with an Assistant Attorney General regarding complaints related to the conduct prohibited by HF 1857 would be similar to that which the Board currently consults with the Attorney General's Office regarding complaints received by the Board for other types of misconduct by veterinarians. The Board estimates a violation of the standards outlined in HF1857 will amount to 1% of the approximate 120-140 complaints they receive annually.

The work outlined above will be done by the Office's existing attorneys and investigators.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

n/a

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

n/a

Local Fiscal Impact

n/a

References/Sources

n/a

Agency Contact: Laura Sayles

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Laura Capuana

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Date: 3/13/2025 3:02:08 PM

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