

Bill No.: SF0025 **Effective:** **Multiple Dates**

LSO No.: 21LSO-0006

Enrolled Act No.: SEA No. 0059

Chapter No.: 119

Prime Sponsor: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee

Catch Title: **Animal impound proceedings - bond and disposition.**

Subject: Amending and creating bond and disposition proceedings for animals treated cruelly.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This bill amends and creates bond and disposition proceedings for animals treated cruelly.
- The bill provides that any person with authority to enforce the animal cruelty laws may impound an animal treated cruelly, provided the person has probable cause to believe that there has been a violation of the law. For livestock animals, a consultation with an agent or officer of the Livestock Board is also required and a Wyoming licensed veterinarian must determine the animal was treated cruelly prior to impoundment.
- The bill creates an initial hearing requirement, bonding requirements and provides that an animal shall not be forfeited without a hearing if the animal is connected to the animal owner's livelihood or ability to make a living.
- The bill provides a process for a hearing on the disposition of the animal, which includes a requirement that the court must set a disposition hearing within seven (7) days of receiving a petition for a disposition hearing, provides burden of proof requirements and provides guidance to the court depending on the outcome of the hearing.
- The bill creates definitions in W.S. 11-29-101, repeals and recreates W.S. 11-29-114(b) and creates the provisions noted above in both Title 6 and Title 11 of the Wyoming Statutes.
- The bill amends law passed early in the legislative session to provide that felony animal cruelty shall be punished by permanent forfeiture of the animal or livestock animal, in addition to the punishment of imprisonment of not more than two (2) years, a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.
- The bill includes conforming amendments related to use of the defined term "reasonable costs of impoundment."

The above summary is not an official publication of the Wyoming Legislature and is not an official statement of legislative intent. While the Legislative Service Office endeavored to provide accurate information in this summary, it should not be relied upon as a comprehensive abstract of the bill.